



## LAW INTELLIGENCE.

IMPORTANT TO SHAREHOLDERS IN JOINT-STOCK  
UNDERTAKINGS.

COUNTY OF ANTRIM—MARCH 5.

AGRICULTURAL BANK OF IRELAND—WATSON v. GREER.—The general, in opening this case, stated that the statute on which the corporation called the Agricultural and Commercial Bank was founded, was the 6th of Geo. IV., amended by the 1st of Wm. IV. It was passed for the purpose of enabling certain parties to associate together as a joint-stock banking company. The 10th section enacts that proceedings might be taken against any officer or officers of the company. The next section to which he would direct attention was the 12th. Having directed how the instruments ought to be executed, the statute then proceeds to enact how the judgment is to be proceeded with against the officers whose names may be registered in the stamp-office, and if that fails he has his action against every one of his partners whose names are signed to the registered deed. And the 10th section enacts that if any officer of the company has been proceeded against, all his expenses that he may have incurred in the action shall be paid to him out of the funds of the company. Now, in the case at present under consideration, Solomon Watson has been out on the part of the company something more than £400, and he brings his action for the recovery of the amount against Mr. Greer, who denies that he is, or ever was, a member of that corporation. Now they had produced from the stamp office the precise document which was described in the section of the Act just read, which deed is for 1841; that deed for 1842 would not be made out till March next, and there he found the name of Samuel B. Greer in both the documents. It is signed by Mr. Hughes, and clearly established the fact that Mr. Greer was a member of the corporation. From what had fallen from Mr. Holmes he supposed it would be contended that Mr. Greer never signed the deed, and is, therefore, not liable; but he (Mr. Gilmore) was anxious whether he did sign it or not. The Legislature had not specified that every one who dealt with the bank should sign his deed, but they had placed such a list in the stamp-office that every one might have recourse to if they wished to examine the character of the company. If they did not do that they would be setting a trap for the public; but that must be placed there, and its correctness certified on oath. If that were not done any man who chose might participate in the profits of a company without being liable to any of its losses. These documents to which he had referred were signed by Mr. Cooper, the Comptroller-General of Stamps; and having proved these, he thought they would have made out a clear case, and satisfied themselves to a verdict at the hands of the jury.

The counsel for the defendant said it was sought by this action to saddle Mr. Greer with £400, sold, on account of this *et-undertaking* company, called the Agricultural and Commercial Bank of Ireland, and it was attempted to charge this gentleman on the production of certain documents from the stamp-office, containing the names of certain parties which the officers of that company have thought proper to put in those documents. No doubt the Act contains the provision Mr. Gilmore mentioned, and he must admit that the document was drawn out according to that Act; but he did not admit that it was conclusive evidence for the company. The names were entered there as they appeared in the books of the company, and yet, while it was certified to, it was not, he contended, conclusive evidence. Why, the officers of the company might enter any name they chose in the deed—any of the names of the gentlemen of the jury—therefore the document was not proof. It was admitted that his client had never signed the document in question, and because the officer of the company certifies the name of his client was he therefore to become liable? It was monstrous to suppose such a thing. It was a question of law for the learned Judge, that if his client had never put his name to the original document, or authorized any one to do so for him, to say if he were liable, and he relied on his lordship directing a verdict for him.

The COUNSEL.—You don't bind in any proof. I hold that the documents were not conclusive evidence, but I hold them to be *prima facie* evidence that the defendant is a member of the company. The only thing not proved is that he signed the document, but that was not required, for another may sell out and be purchased, or by may dispose of his shares and another purchase them, and there was a statement made every year, which held good from March to March, in which all the changes that had taken place during the year were introduced. He wished to state merely that he held the document to be *prima facie* evidence.

Mr. TOWN submitted that it was *prima facie* evidence unless rebutted by other evidence. He again submitted an objection, and that there was some evidence to go to the jury. His client was not, and is not, a member of the company.

The learned JUDGE said it was a very serious question, which might affect great numbers, and had been ably argued on both sides. His directing to the jury would be to find for the plaintiff; but there was a grave question of law which remained to be argued, and if it were found that there was evidence to go to the jury the verdict would be changed into one for the defendant.—The Jury then found a verdict for the plaintiff, as directed by his lordship.

## THE NORTHERN RAILWAYS' DISPUTE.

COURT OF CHANCERY—MARCH 12.

THE CLARENCE RAILWAY COMPANY & NORTH OF ENGLAND, CLARENCE AND HARTEBROOK RAILWAYS.—The LORD CHANCELLOR delivered judgment on this motion, which sought the dissolution of an injunction restraining the defendants from crossing the Clarence Railway by their line. His lordship said it was no doubt a question of great importance, for if the North of England Company succeeded they would become formidable rivals to the Clarence, as regards the communication with Hartlepool. On the other hand, it was of equal importance to the North of England Company to be permitted to cross, otherwise their whole object would be defeated. But at present the question was a narrow one, and turned upon the construction of an Act of Parliament, both difficult and doubtful, though it was not necessary to give his opinion upon it, because it was properly cognisance in a court of law. His lordship said he must now consider the interests of both companies, each complaining of irreconcileable injury. But the crossing of their line would only occasion a temporary inconvenience of a few hours to the Clarence Company, while restraining the North of England one, considering the terms of their agreement with Mr. Williamson for the purchase of his land, would work them irreparable mischief. The inconvenience to the Clarence Company admitted of any easy permanent compensation, while, although the most of law might determine in favour of the North of England Company, Mr. Williamson might destroy the effect by refusing to extend his agreement beyond the 1st of April. His lordship said he was of opinion there had been no needless delay on the part of the defendants, and he thought the balance inclined in favour of their case. The injunction would, therefore, be dissolved so far as it applied to the completion of the works of the North of England Company, effected by the contract with Mr. Williamson. Having varied the order of the Vice-Chancellor, there would be no costs, and either party had liberty to apply, if necessary.

## PARLIAMENTARY PROCEEDINGS—THE PROPOSED NEW TARIFF.

## RESPONSE DUE ON THE 15th AND CORRESPONDING.

TUESDAY.—Sir C. Lewin begged to ask the right hon. gentleman opposite what was the intention of Government with regard to the duty to be imposed on the, as he observed that it had been omitted from the schedule in the tariff? He also desired to know what was the amount of duty intended to be imposed upon foreign copper ore imported into this country for smelting? And whether it was intended to lay the duty on copper ore in proportion to the quantity of metal contained in that ore, or merely on the quantity of ore as imposed hitherto. W. H. Glaister, to answer to the hon. bar., said that, as regards the ore, it had been omitted from the tariff in error; it was intended, however, to alter the present duty from 3d. 10s. the cwt. to 1d. a ton, or 1s. the cwt., a higher duty being imposed on the importation of metallic than other metals in the same stage of preparation, an account of the duty which was laid on that article by the Duchy of Cornwall. With regard to the duty on copper ore, it was intended to do away altogether with the system of smelting in hand, and to make all ore liable to a duty of 3d. per cwt., or, otherwise, whether the exportation or consumption at home. As to the hon. baronet's third question, if he desired to know whether it was intended to take 3 per cent. of the market value of the ore, or 3 per cent. of the market value of the copper extracted from the ore, the intention certainly was to take 3 per cent. of the market value of the ore, and not of the copper extracted by smelting.

## EXCISE DUTY ON COAL.

Mr. LAWRENCE said that a deputation from the North of England were anxious to see the right hon. baronet on the subject of the proposed duty on coal before he brought forward his measure, and he, therefore, hoped it might be postponed till a late day after Easter.—Sir R. PEASE said he was anxious to postpone the measure. The deputation might come to London forthwith.—Mr. LAWRENCE hoped the right hon. baronet would postpone his measure to a late day.—Sir R. PEASE said he intended to proceed with it on Friday.

Mr. WILKINSON presented petitions from the General Shipping Company, and from others connected with the shipping trade against the proposed sugar-duty on sugar.

TUESDAY.—Mr. M. ATTWELL moved that an humble address be presented to her Majesty, praying that her Majesty will be graciously pleased to direct her Majesty's commands, contained in those foreign parts to which His Britannic Majesty is appointed, to report what quantities of such coal have been imported into those ports during the year 1841, and to state, as far as they are enabled to do so, the progress to which such coal have been applied.—A Motion of the hon. gentleman was agreed to.

## IMPORTANT DISCOVERIES IN ELECTRICITY.

Accounts from Paris state that Sir Graves Houghton has discovered that needles made of any substance will place themselves at right angles to a wire through which a current of electricity is sent, even with more rapidities than those which are magnetic—and for this simple reason, that their movement is not counteracted by polarity. This discovery, he says, must have important consequences upon prevailing views respecting magnetism, as it entirely overturns the hypothesis of Ampere, that terrestrial currents, passing from east to west, are the cause of magnetic polarity; for it is evident, were this the case, all needles freely suspended ought to have the same polarity as the magnet; it being now found that all obey but one law in the presence of electricity, whether current or quiescent. The opposition, therefore, on which Ampere founded his theory of magnetic polarity, and which the well-known experiment of Mr. Barlow with a globe of wood intersected by wires seemed to confirm, has no foundation. Needles of gold, silver, brass, copper, lead, zinc, iron, glass, sealing-wax, ivory, wood, charcoal, leather, card, quill, straw, feather, &c., have been tried; and, by experiments on a great number of other substances, there is no doubt that the law is universal. A simple mode used by Sir Graves Houghton of generating the electric fluid without either machine or pile, has enabled him to arrive at these results, and has further led to what Dr. Faraday thought was impossible—viz., the production, at pleasure, of an absolute charge of either electricity; and he has consequently been enabled to magnetise common sewing-needles by purely negative electricity—the points turned towards the electrifying body, acquiring what is popularly called south polarity. The notion, therefore, that electrical phenomena depend merely upon a polar arrangement of matter must now be abandoned by those who favour that theory; and the contest will lie, for the future, between the respective advocates for a single or a double fluid. Sir Graves Houghton holding decidedly for the first, in consequence of indications which he has observed. He has also been led to the inference, that the electric fluid is not the *agent* in what are called attractions and repulsions, but that its presence or absence is simply the condition upon which such results take place. The objection to the theory of Franklin, founded upon the mutual repulsion of two bodies negatively electrified, is consequently removed. A detailed account of what is connected with these important facts (which have had more than a year's consideration), will shortly be laid before the scientific world, as well as a *rationale* of electricity, galvanism, and magnetism, founded upon the foregoing and other well-known discoveries, which will demonstrate that these connected sciences are of the utmost simplicity in their first principles, and that all the Protean variety which has been observed in their phenomena, and which might be extended as far as human ingenuity could go, may be all resolved into one proposition—viz., *electrical and magnetic phenomena depend for their variety upon the nature and state of the body in which they appear, and the quantity of electric fluid present, whether current or quiescent.*

## INSTITUTION OF CIVIL ENGINEERS.

MARCH 13.—The proceedings of the evening commenced with a renewal of the discussion upon Kyanising timber, in the course of which a member described some experiments made since the last meeting; the result was, that at a pressure equal to 120 fathoms, a piece of Menel timber had absorbed as much water as doubled its original weight. Another member produced some specimens of Kyanised timber which had been prepared in 1838, 1840, and 1842, they were all in progressive stages of decay. A new process, patented by Mr. Playe, of filling up the pores of timber with various substances, so as to render it almost like stone, and perfectly incombustible, was mentioned; this was also Dr. Bouchier's system of saturating timber with various metallic salts, &c., by means of the capillary action going on within the capillaries of trees as long as vegetable life remains. In the course of the discussion it was elicited that this system had been patented by Mr. Bouchier as long ago as 1828, and that the specification of Dr. Bouchier's patent was almost a literal copy of Mr. Bouchier's. The system had not been carried forward in this country because it was found too expensive. Mr. Bouchier's system of saturating timber with the oil of coal tar, as practised for the Bristol and Exe or other railways, was fully described, and appeared to be attended with perfect success. A gentleman connected with the Anti-Dry-Rot Company attributed the failure of Ryan's system in many instances to carelessness in the preparation, or the too sparing use of the corrosive sublimate. A letter was read from Mr. Davison, describing some remarkable specimens of timber which had been destroyed by the teredo navalis, and also some of the insects preserved in spirits.—Two papers were then read descriptive of "An Iron Bridge on the Eastern Counties Railway," by Mr. Dobson, and "The Road of Messrs. Simpson's Factory, at Pinchon," by Mr. Brasford; much ingenuity was displayed in the construction and the combination of the materials of the roof and bridge, and the drawings illustrated them very clearly.

NATIONAL BREAKWATER COMPANY.—On the motion that this bill, now before the House of Commons, be read a second time, Captain FITZROY said, that he felt it his duty to call the attention of the House and the public to the company about to be formed under the bill then before them, with a view to induce those who were disposed to think favourably of the speculation to think a little before they gave it their sanction. His detailed opinion was that "Sea floating breakwaters would not last more than three or four years, unless they were protected by some metallic substance. The worms also would penetrate through them and destroy their buoyancy, and the chains by which they were adjusted and held in their places would rust, and wear away very fast. Such, at least, was the case with the chains attached to the buoys put down by the Trinity House, which they were obliged to examine every six months, and which seldom lasted more than five or six years."

CONSUMPTION OF SMOKE.—We are happy to learn that, in consequence of the perfect success of Mr. Samuel Hall's patent apparatus for the consumption of smoke, as applied to the *Loco* locomotive-engine on the Midland Counties' Railway, the directors of that company are applying it to another of their engines, the *Wulff*, which will be ready in a few days. It was put to the *Loco* locomotive about a week ago, and is now in daily operation on the Birmingham and Derby Junction Railway. Its accurate consumption of smoke is highly interesting, and deserving of the inspection of the scientific world.—*Derby Reporter.*

EARTHQUAKE IN CORNWALL.—We find that the statement, inserted in our last, in Mr. R. Hunt's notice of the recent earthquake in Cornwall, respecting the kilibie silver at Wheal Bassett leaving his work and going to surface, in consequence of the disturbance, was not true; and, our correspondent adds, "it is exceedingly difficult to get correct information about this same earthquake."

LECTURES ON GEOLOGY.—A course of six lectures on geology is in course of delivery by Mr. LEONARD, F.G.S., of Manchester, at the Rhodes Mechanics' Institution; we are glad to learn, that the first of the series was numerously attended, and that the auditory departed highly gratified with the intellectual enjoyment afforded by the lecturer, in his explanation of the geological sciences, the duration of geological periods, chemical data as to the exterior parts of the earth, connection of geology with astronomy, celestial theory of the universe, form of rock masses, declination of strata, origin of stratified and unstratified rocks, granite, volcanic agency, modern eruptions, &c.

MUSKATE ACT.—At the meeting of the Royal Medical-Botanical Society, on the 9th inst. (Dr. Sigismund in the chair), a communication was read from M. de Pasquier, on the presence of a notable quantity of arsenic in the volcanic soil of Sommare, and in the acid purified for chemical and pharmaceutical purposes. The author's attention was first directed to this subject by finding that, when testing soil for arsenic in Marsh's apparatus, the sulphuric acid yielded indispensible evidence of the presence of arsenic, while the sulphuric acid gave negative results; he then instituted a series of experiments on the muriatic acid in use in his laboratory, both pure and impure, which clearly demonstrated that a large quantity of arsenic was contained therein. The source of the poison was traced to the sulphuric acid used in its preparation, and which was made from copper pyrites, containing a quantity of sulphuric acid. The author directed attention to the fact, that muriatic acid is employed in pharmacy, in manufacturing, and in chemical and medical-legal research; in all these instances the presence of arsenic must be exceedingly injurious; the acid, therefore, should always be tested with the citric acid.

ROCKS OF THE BRITANNIA OR LANA OR ERYTHRA.—In Sweden, as well as in Italy, the lead rises constantly from out of the basis of the surrounding soil; this operation takes place very slowly and gradually, yet seems without interruption. According to the late observations of M. Niessl, the Neapolitan geologist, the lead of the west coast of Italy has risen, from the year 1833 to 1838, 112 millimetres. The same fact has been long observed in Sweden, but never yet ascertained by any accurate measurement.

## COAL MINES OF PRUSSIA.

In the Journal of the 26th February last we published some observations on the mineral produce of Prussia, referring more particularly to iron and its elaboration, as exercising the largest share of influence upon the extension and improvement of textile and other manufactures. As of greater importance still, perhaps, because first in the order of these elementary substances on the abundance and working of which the general industrial prosperity depends, the coal mines of that country, with the present state and prospects of their productiveness, must be a subject of considerable interest, not alone with the large class engaged in the same branch of industry in this country, with the manufacturing interests at large, as well as with scientific inquiries in general. The coal mines of the provinces of Silesia, Westphalia, and the Rhine have become gradually, but remarkably, productive. The Prussian province of Saxeony furnishes very little black coal of good quality; but, on the contrary, it produces a large quantity of brownish coal, or brown coal—coal of brownish hue, much inferior in quality to the ordinary black coal, being not so hard, and much poorer, in ignitable matter, and consequently of less value. It may be said to hold a middle rank between mineral coal and turf, and is chiefly consumed in the province itself, within a limited range around the places where extracted.

The total value of the coal obtained from the mines in Prussia, in 1839, was calculated at 5,132,628 thalers, or dollars, or, at 2s. 10*fl.* sterling the thaler, in round numbers about 743,200*l.* The comparison between the value of coal extracted and of metals is as 23 to 73; and as to the numbers of labourers employed, as 39 to 62. Throughout the whole extent of the kingdom of Prussia 364 coal mines were worked in 1839, the date of the latest returns made public, which altogether yielded 12,213,160 tons of coal (the Prussian ton, however, weighing only, in coal weights and measures there, four quintals, or *centavos*, of about 110 lbs. each), or 48,852,640 quintals, constituting a total value of 4,779,628 thalers; the difference between this lesser amount and the larger estimate before given, being made up by casual production and superficial workings. According to the value thus stated, the mean price of coal on the spot, or at the pit's mouth, should be rather less than three *albergos*, or about 3*fl.* per quintal (of 110 lbs.) or per *centavo*—a measure equal to a fraction more than one and a half imperial bushels. The workings of the coal mines gave employment altogether to 19,370 labourers—making, with their families, a total of 44,170 individuals owing the means of existence to the production of this combustible.

No branch of mining industry in the Prussian states has been more largely developed, since its origin, than that of coal, as the following figures relating to the production and the ratio of increase (in tons) will serve to show:—

Rate of increase from one period to another.	
1819	4,492,627
1824	6,090,504
1829	6,837,733
1834	8,324,510
1839	12,213,160

The mean annual increase during a series of twenty years has, therefore, been nearly 6 per cent., and from 1829 to 1839 not far short of 120 per cent. The largest rate of increase in any of the terms of five years each, it is worthy of notice, dates from 1834 to 1839. Now, it was in 1834 that the Prussian, or German, Custom-house league was finally formed and completed, with the exception of Frankfort, and two or three other of the lesser members, which have since acceded; and, from the completion of that league, it is, doubtless, that German and Prussian manufactures have received so strong an impulse and progression, and that, consequently, the increased consumption of coal leading to a greater demand, has encouraged the application of more capital and industry to the opening and working of mines. It is worthy of remark, moreover, that during all the lapse of those twenty years the price of coal, notwithstanding its extended consumption, has remained the same, within a very trifling variation. In 1819 the price was 2*fl.* *albergos* per quintal; it has since augmented only by one-sixth of a gross—that is, by the proportion of 33 to 36, or about 6 per cent. on't. The increase in the price of wood, although varying according to the different provinces, has, on the contrary, been considerably more during the same twenty years, and may be estimated at the mean rate of advance of 30 per cent. in the three provinces where the coal mines are situated and coal produced. Thus the iron, with other metal, works and manufactures which necessarily require much fuel, can exist and prosper only in the vicinity of the coal mines, and there only where the means of transport are convenient and economical. The following statement (in tons) gives the details of the coal production per province:—

Province of Silesia.	1819	1,428,167
"	1824	3,778,650
"	1829	9,307,645
"	1834	3,416,033
"	1839	3,576,750

Province of Westphalia.

1819	1,929,923	
"	1824	3,611,492
"	1829	3,831,693
"	1834	5,034,958
"	1839	3,814,815

Since 1839 coal mining enterprise, or, as in French it would be more appropriately and significantly rendered, the exploitation of coal, for which the English language, the land of mines as Great Britain is, affords no word of adequate expressiveness, having been favoured by the increased facilities of carriage upon the Rhine and the Rhine, large quantities of coal have been dispatched to Holland from the provinces of Westphalia and the Rhine, and particularly from the district of Tivoli in France, Bavaria, Hesse, and the Grand Duchy of Baden. The export from Silesia to Cracow and the Austrian States is unimportant. The countries somewhat distant from the Prussian coal mines, where no sufficiently cheap means of carriage exist naturally, prefer to supply themselves with English coal, which can be imported at low rates of freight, and not infrequently as ballast, into Stettin and other Baltic ports. The provinces of Pomerania, Brandenburg, and Prussian Saxeony are principally supplied through these ports. Sometimes it occurs that foreign coal is imported from Schleswig and Holstein, for example, by way of Minden and Kalkenbergen, into the Prussian provinces of Westphalia and the Rhine.

These districts of the Prussian states where the exploitation of mines of all kinds is most vigorously pursued are—Oppeln, Morsberg, Arnshurg, Tivoli, Aix-la-Ch

## GEOLOGY.—A NEW SYSTEM OF PHILOSOPHY.—No. X.

BY HENRY GRAHAM MONTAGUE, ESQ.

## PHENOMENA OF THE DESERTS.

Wisdom drops a tear for the sufferings, for the follies of mankind. She grieves—and weeps to see earth's proudest hope its grovelling in the dust—the immortal gem of beauty dimmed by fear and folly. She would clothe man with knowledge as with a garment—she opens her arms to receive him as would a parent; her cherished favourite child—she displays her most tempting viands, reveals her most hidden treasures, and invites him to enjoyment; but her voice is neglected, her commands are despised—her treasures are exposed in vain—her love is returned with hate—the budding flower gives way to the cankerworm—the heart of joy is turned into mourning—the wine of knowledge is converted into the gall of bitterness.

Men fear the spread of knowledge, and fear they know not why. Is not light better than darkness? Is not a blooming garden better than a solitary flower? Is not the reason of man infinitely superior to the reason of animals? How long shall the foes of one cause the tears of ten thousand? Who is he, in the subtlety of words, seeking to prove that knowledge is hurtful to mankind? Even he who finds pleasure and profit in ignorance—even he whose iron heel is placed on the necks of his fellow-creatures. The lion condemns the speed of the antelope—the rapid flight of the swallow is condemned by the falcon—even so is knowledge condemned by man, who revels in the miseries of his fellows. Knowledge is the light of the world—it burns with a steady-flaming flame, but the spark of folly, fanned into greatness, quickly consumes itself. The steed, in his native wildness, requires the bit of iron and the rowelled spur, but, brought on the snaffle, his dormant faculties called forth, the child may guide him with a silken thread. As the light of the clear blue heavens to the emancipated captive, so does wisdom appear oppressively dazzling; she smiles, and nations rejoice in the light of her countenance—she speaks, and prosperity waits on the footsteps of industry; the emanations of her greatness clothe princes with honour, and the nobles of the earth with consideration and respect. "Come hither!" she cries to the child of mortality, "listen to my voice, and become great." The eagle flutters on the wing long ere it forsakes its nest, but, taught by me, it acquires knowledge to direct, and strength to sustain its flight. Learn from her, oh weak of intellect—nestling in thy prejudices—accused in thy fears, thy life passeth away as the shadows of the morning. Why shouldst thou fear? Dost the eagle repent her flight? Does she disdain the feathered shaft on which she is suspended?—and thou, with eager mind, prepared, like earth's rich soil, awaiting summer rains—wilt thou not take thy flight with Nature—Reason—Wisdom, thy guide?

It is anything but pleasing or instructive, to the young mind thirsting after knowledge, to have to wade through the barbarous jargon of terms and inductive speculations of our modern philosophers—to have to steer his vessel through the troubled shoals of controversy without rudder or compass. The torrent, the whirlwind, and the volcano bringing death, desolation, and change, too often paralyse the faculties of man, baffle his conceptions, deride his feeble powers, and defeat his intents and purposes; thus, in the timidity of his nature, he is taught to fear them, and, in fearing, to throw the veil of mystery over their unseen but manifest operations. The mundane egg of the ancient Egyptians is a beautiful philosophic truth, disguised in the wild romance of Paganism, allegorically portraying the generating powers of the sun and the productive capacities of the earth; but far otherwise are the conceptions of modern geologists, who, while they affect to sneer at these children of Nature, rush into greater absurdities in seeking to obscure the life-giving emanations of the sun by the contemptible light of volcanoes. The interior of the earth is, in fact, a wonderful laboratory for many of our modern worshippers of Pluto, in which the never-failing sword is found to cut the gordian knot woven in the workings of Nature; from this source one draws his stores of lime, another his inexhaustible supplies of hot-water, and numerous others their thousand and one probabilities: in this great hall of the eye-slopes all the crystalline rocks are manufactured, and are protruded upwards, in their beautiful uniformity, and in their grandeur of composition and character; and from these rocks, in decomposition, are produced the sands, pebbles, and clays.

It is a fact well known that gelatinous matter, whether the same be the produce of animal or vegetable life, or is reproduced in the decomposition of bodies, favours the conglomeration of silica and the process of petrification, in all parts of the world, but more particularly so in tropical regions, where animal and vegetable production is in excess; thus it is many springs and rivers, holding in solution these matters, speedily convert organic bodies, and aggregates of bodies, into conglomerates; sometimes the ocean waters possess the like properties, of which the island Ascension is an illustration, where the silicious qualities of the waters are such as to cause the animal and vegetable matters thrown upon the shores to unite in one vast consolidated mass, the like causes, as previously explained, give origin to the petrifications and conglomerates of the Deserts. It is to be observed, that so long as the sands are exposed to the action of heat alone, so long do they continue little unchanged in their parts and qualities; but no sooner do they become exposed to the conjoint affections of heat and moisture, than the changing process becomes apparent—the nature of the change depending on the nature of the material, which is at all times variable; thus the waters, percolating through the sand strata, near the bed of the Nile and other streams and fountains, these sands become saturated throughout a given extent, and the waters, in their turn, become the conductors of the electric action, which, passing through the whole, disposes it to enter into new combinations—the minute particles of sand in aggregate becoming small granular silicious bodies; if there be lime within the mass it aggregates also, towards a given centre in the line of action, and the ultimate result is a vein, or veins, of quartz; the iron also disposes itself in bands, and sometimes gives the sand a lamellated texture; but, if in abundance, it is diffused throughout, being as one with the whole in the several changes. Again, many of the granular particles gradually assume the form of milk quartz, while others, consisting of more indestructible admixtures, assume a variety of colours and appearance. As the oxygen of the atmosphere and of the waters enters the mass, so its bulk of aggregate and its specific gravity increases, and in the general expansion of the granular particles cohesion naturally takes place, the crystalline structure being prevented by the pressure and simultaneous expansion of surrounding particles.

To the better understanding of these phenomena of production and progressive change, let those who have opportunities of visiting the British Museum, pause for a short time as they pass through the Egyptian Gallery, and carefully examine the material of the antiquities surrounding them. The figure, No. 4, is a sandstone of a fine quality, containing iron; upon examining the back of the hand, which is in its natural state, and unmarked by the chisel, it exhibits the phenomena as above-mentioned—the granular particles being simply agglutinated, some of them being transparent and crystalline, others variably so, and others, again, of a dull earthy appearance, all, however, firmly united to each other, and in varying stages of change; the front of the figure, which, previous to being quarried, was more immediately exposed to the action of the sun, has evidently become more highly crystalline, and exhibits, in its bands and zones, the true phenomena, or adaptation of parts, as developed in smaller silicious aggregates, when exposed to the conjoint influences of heat and moisture. Here and there larger aggregates, or nodular concretions, are exhibited, passing also through their successive stages of change, but interrupted in these changes, and, consequently, in the contemplated result, by the rough hand of the quarryman. Pass on to figure No. 6—here we have what is termed *breccia*, which geologists will tell you, is produced in the decomposition of quartz rock; but this is one of the numerous errors of generalization which disfigure this otherwise beautiful branch of philosophy. In truth, this material is not a like the common coarse gravel of this country, but the aggregates are, perhaps, in a more advanced stage of change, for a petrification, under this latitude, continues in this state age after age—the cause necessary to effect the change not being in action. The larger aggregates, passing with some portion of their primary material, have become more purely silicious, assuming the crystalline texture; but the result, as one whole, is evidently imperfect, it being simply a conglomeration, and as such readily separable in its parts. Within the mass will be observed aggregates of feldspar, mica-schist, and jasper, and in and throughout the whole, it will be observed, that the aggregates are of indestructible form, and such as is observed in many species of granite; that the quartz is not crystalline, but becomes more translucent in the rearrangement of its minute particles, consequent on the action of atmospheric air and the disengagement of other products. As the form of the public is now, as was

it previous to its present appearance, when existing independent of its matrix.

It has often been asked—"Do pebbles grow?" They do not, but atomic particles and aggregate, as is exemplified on this large scale, cohere, and form consolidated bodies; thus numerous atomic particles aggregate together, as particles of iron around a magnet, but permanently united by the one common base, and larger aggregates unite as conglomerate, and this conglomerate, acted upon by atmospheric heat, becomes pudding-stone, or other kinds of rock. The rocks, or stones, once crystalline, will not cohere, but under peculiar circumstances, such as the presence of the crystallising waters; but this is often the case in Nature, where two or more beds, for instance, as those which, in ultimate results, are known as granite and gneiss, undergo simultaneous change. Again, in beds of earth or clay, containing lime or iron, the electric matter is conducted into, and awakes chemical action in these compounds, forming calc spar, which embraces at times portions of the earth affected by this action, or otherwise varieties of ironstone, pyrites, &c.

Figure 7 is of fine sandstone, and but slightly adhesive; in No. 8, the sands have many of them become opalescent, or translucent, and crystalline. Upon examining the granites, most of them will be observed of coarse grain, confusedly arranged, exhibiting the like nodular appearance to No. 6, but in a more highly crystalline state. The texture invariably depends on the nature of the primary material from which, and in which, it is produced; thus, if the sand unites with the oceanic marls or calcareous deposits in the process of change, occasioned by atmospheric influence, the result will be a very fine-grained grey granite. The change is a result of long-continued action, perhaps for centuries; and one great reason why fossil remains are so seldom found imbedded in granite is, that sands holding fresh water in union are inimical to the preservation of bodies; but mark the granite material of our London bridges, and other buildings, of like nature, and, as is there evidenced, although the fossil body has lost its internal configuration, yet have they the external form and the characteristics of the body in quartz nodules; and not only this, but we have the distinct evidence of fossil bodies enclosed in granite, of highly crystalline texture, before us. In bays and troughs of tropical seas there is always an accumulating fine calcareous deposit, formed and forming, from the accumulated particles of coral and shell-bearing animals, and this marl is sometimes of considerable depth, and invariably free from fossil bodies, unless they be of a nature to resist decomposition; in receiving other matters upon its surface, and being afterwards elevated above the waters, and exposed to tropical influences, it gradually indurates, and the result is exemplified in tomb 17 in this gallery.

Who can look at the two large tombs, and pronounce them to be the products of fusion; they are conglomrates, the decomposed material being of the nature of the tomb above noticed, but including, in its composition, a variety of animal and vegetable remains, the animal bodies having partially decomposed before the crystallising process began, and the aggregates changing, according to their compound qualities, into quartz, felspar, jasper, calcedony, or mica, and simulating with many of the shell marbles, which in general exhibit partial decomposition.

It is well known to the quarrymen of this country, that the granite is softer as it descends into the earth, and that its degree of hardness depends as often upon the nature of its position as upon its peculiar material—that sometimes it may almost be said to be in a state of decomposition, hardening only on exposure to the atmosphere. How do theorists reconcile this with their ideas of central heat, and not only this, but the well-known fact, that the vast portion of our crystalline and translucent bodies acquire this finish by atmospheric action alone? Let us look at the Cornish mines; here the tin sometimes forms full three-fourths of the bulk of aggregates of the granite, being naturally one of its integrals, and containing, in its own body, a large proportion of atmospheric air; like other minerals, it is sometimes found in beds, the same being more or less united with the matrix; it is sometimes found in veins, assuming a polarity of disposition, the electro-chemical action being guided by the veins of quartz or iron which were previously formed in the disintegrated mass, the metallic bases separating from the silicious base, and uniting, as the forces of electric action and affinity direct; it is very often, in like manner with copper and iron, as one with the material, although variably dispersed in its quantities; it is, in its native state, blending with inflammable bodies, and which are evidently proximate causes of its production. We will admit that, sometimes it is produced in fissures, and perhaps, too, in natural cavities, in some instances showing its recent origin, but still the fact remains, that tin forms an integral part of granite, together with sulphur and other inflammable products. It is evident that, in this state, it could never have been the subject of heat of fusion, otherwise the usual phenomena would have ensued; instead of veins and lodes, we should have had a strange amalgam of volcanic products, of many metals and earths, the sulphur and other inflammable products being driven off. The few volcanic products are well known to us, as are also the causes of effects produced; here the minerals are forcibly withdrawn from their native beds, and scattered over the surface of the earth, the action being manifest in the result; but in native beds the phenomena speak a different language, an undisturbed strata, and a succession of ages, or, where disturbed, the causes being in general remote from the body acted upon. Admitting that the metal was an after formation, then must we admit a radical change in the matrix, decomposition, and recombination, and admitting it must come to the conclusion that crystalline rocks can be formed by atmospheric heat.

Again, the material ejected from craters of volcanoes, it cannot even be pretended, is ever known to be in the crystalline state; it is water, mud, fragments of rock, disengaged gases, or melted material, as the case may be; if lava, on cooling down, it consolidates, and its siliceous crystalline, but it never assumes the crystalline texture like granite, and the act of crystallising is determined by water or atmospheric action. In the Deserts the phenomena of production are strikingly manifest, even to the ultimate union of the metals with the mineral beds; thus, where sulphur and the oxide of iron abounded in the sands, as the latter, in union, assume the granular form, as the like manifest action occasioning this change gradually produces iron pyrites, and the ultimate result is a granite of coarse grain, more or less abounding in iron. Again, mica-schist enters into the composition of porphyry, generally diffused or locally aggregated.

Our rising generation, thankful for the numerous beautiful facts discovered by the zeal and perseverance of geologists, would gladly avail themselves of those facts, under the guidance of men experienced in the ways of Nature; but such can never be the case while they are as interested with false inductions, marvellous absurdities, and crude generalisations. Geology is said to be a science of observation, and yet it cannot be derived without inductive science, of the truth or falsehood of which the young mind is incapable of judging, and, in the multiplicity of opinions, is little disposed to receive. The object of the inquiring mind is to understand the ways of Nature, and, in understanding, to render her tributary, to a greater extent, to our wants and purposes; but this cannot be done by observing men training their ideas to the prejudices or fashions of the day, or by discouraging all attempts to discover the modes operundi of Nature. Men must, of necessity, rely, to a great extent, on the analogies and discoveries of the few, and this alone should deter us from drawing largely upon their credulity or fears.

Much stress has been laid upon the increase of temperature of the interior of the earth as we descend, as demonstrated in mines, and in the recent labours of M. Agassiz; upon this head I shall speak more fully hereafter, contenting myself at present with observing, that the course of such increase of temperature, where it is manifest, are inevitable results of chemical combination of atmospheric air with the liberated gases, or combinations of the latter; and if in some of the lowest depths of the earth hitherto arrived at we find a manifest increase of temperature, in other depths, we find little or no change, and in some an increase of cold. Did the heat, as conjectured, radiate from the interior of the earth, and increase in ratio, as found in some diggings, then must it, of necessity, be very great at the lower depths of the same, and being so would be manifest to. The same phenomena of increase is manifest in the mines of Mexico, 3000 or 3500 feet above the level of the sea, as is manifest in the digging of the Paris basin; now are hot springs, at all times, manifestations of the existence of internal fire, for the waters, in their passage through the earth, of necessity bring together numerous conflicting elements, which, in union, and consequent chemical action, induce heat; and, indeed, nearly all the hot waters, not seated in the vicinity of volcanoes, hold in solution certain mineral bodies; nor could we, even were we to ascertain the action of an internal fire, suppose for a moment that these springs ever so deeply seated as to be affected by this internal heat.

The fact of granite protruding through the overlying beds, furnishing

but a lame argument for the Plutonist, for we have only to look at the unequal distribution of matter within the ocean bed, to be convinced of its fallacy. Supposing, for illustration, we take the Phenomena of Production, as now going on in tropical seas; here, in the increase of oceanic matter submarine hills and chains of hills are formed, the great rivers bringing down their periodical sum of terrestrial matters, and these matters are deposited in the valleys, thus encircling the lower portion of the hills, which, still increasing, continue to stand above the increasing periodical deposits: sometimes, where these elevations are superficial, the deposits may cover them entirely. In after ages, when this portion of the earth is elevated above the waters, the submarine hill, in its series of changes, passes into granite, or some other species of rock, and the deposited material, being the debris of terrestrial and oceanic matters, in its ultimate consolidation, becomes schistose; the material brought together by the accidents of local circumstances undergoes a variety of changes in its parts and quantities, the disposition of compounds being regulated by the forces of affinity, cohesion, and lateral pressure of surrounding particles, the end marked out being attained when the operations of Nature are undisturbed, matter being at all times the subject of surrounding influences.

The granite of the valleys of the Desert parts, in general, more of the nature of sandstone than do the granites of the mountains, which latter contain a greater variety of compound bodies; they are also dome-shaped, or in large conglomerate masses, without any true geometrical form; but the granites of the mountains very often present their perpendicular faces to the plains and valleys, and extend in parallel or curvilinear lines, in the like manner of the limestone ranges; their appearance above the waters being naturally accounted for in the constant decrease of the waters from the surface of the earth, the material of the waters becoming the material of consolidated bodies; their consolidation and increasing specific gravity, and ultimate crystallisation, being induced by the union of the aethereal, aqueous, and gaseous bodies with each other, united and uniting with silica, which, but slightly affected by these changes, acts as the common bond of union or cement of the whole. The sands with larger concretions being the chief, and, sometimes, the sole material of many species of granite, and being capable, under numerous affections, of assuming this state ultimately, it should not be made a matter of surprise that the granite should be found in the lowest depths with which we are acquainted; but was it, in imitation of others, to enter into speculations on this matter, I should certainly hazard the opinion that the granites of the lower beds almost invariably rest upon sand or sandstone, or gradually pass into that material.

The assertion of geologists, that the whole of the upper crust of the earth rests on a granitic floor, is purely hypothetical, and not only unwarranted, but expressly contradicted by every day's discoveries. From all that we can observe of the nature and composition of this planetary body, we find no efficient reason to generalise on single phenomena; the numerous beds of the earth are all variably disposed, without order or disposition, beyond that which is of necessity produced by long-continued local action, and all of them affecting, or affected, by contiguous beds, as their nature, and the action manifest, may determine. The lowest beds have been found granite, but the extent of these beds is comparatively nothing to the more frequent phenomena of sands and sandstone. If men are to be permitted to generalise in this manner, on local facts, there will be no end to the vain imaginings of those who have the ambition to become founders of systems, and, as is exemplified in this instance, of necessity, blind leaders of the blind. The late researches into the strata of the United States of America, show that, although granite is common both above and below the surface, the sands, limestone, and marls, of varieties, are by far the most abundant, and the like results are manifested in all other quarters of the globe. Where, I would ask, is this granite floor, and at what depth is it to be found in the Desert? the greatest depths ever arrived at in search of water give crystalline rocks lying upon sand, sandstone, calcareous strata, marls, and sometimes beds of salt; and, in the Suez Desert, we find granite resting on a bed of clay, all these crystalline rocks resting in an undisturbed strata. Positive assertion in this matter, even when backed by superficial observation, cannot be received as positive proof; but it is certain that this granite floor has never been reached; and it is equally certain, in despite of the carrying powers of the waters, and of the erga, that many of the granite formations, embracing vast areas, are based upon other species of beds.

The late experiments of M. Agassiz, in digging for hot water in the Paris basin, as it is termed, are anything but gratifying to these theorists, or to the observing public—originating in a false conception of the phenomena of Nature, they have ended, as all such experiments must end, in mortification and disappointment to those who were so sanguine of success; they found no granite floor, no hot water, and the increasing heat in descent was such only as to show the utter inability, not to say absurdity, of theoretic calculation on local phenomena. But the lesson is lost upon the Geological Magi, who, in their crusade against Nature, are continually found stumbling on discoveries, which immediately are arrayed in evidence against their systems. The like fatality attends mining adventurers, who if not fortunately prevented by the waters, or by the increasing expense, would continue their labours of infatuation, although in the production of metals, as in the production of rock, there is always a limit defined by Nature.

The very term "volcanic product" is, in fact, in absurdity, for whatever is ejected from the mouth of a volcano has an equal right to this term, if it is to be applied; thus, many of the volcanoes of the earth eject vegetable earth as mud, streams of water—and Humboldt assures us that fish are very often cast forth in these torrents, being of the same kinds as found in the neighbouring lakes. Again, there are fragments of rocks, metallic bodies, scoria, the skeletons of rock, as pumice, and melted matter; admitting that the latter concentrates and assumes the form of rock, as it sometimes does, still the material is known to us in all the stages of change, of decomposition, and recombination, as being the product of time, and generally of superficial, beds of the earth, over varying in its nature, the action manifest cutting or destroying all bodies coming within its influence; the act of the fire is to displace and not to produce; nor does it produce other than scoria, lava, volcanic scoria, &c.; we might, with equal foundation, apply the like term to the ashes of our granite, and to all works of war or ornament made with the agency of heat.

That much of the lava, on analysis, corresponds with the material of granite is very natural to suppose, for of such is the composition of all rocks; but this fact is, in direct negation to the theory of volcanic rocks, for if this material was ejected from the molten matter of the interior of the earth, then must we suppose such matter to be uniform, or nearly so, while in its state of fusion; and if the crater be a mere safety-valve, the matter ejected must also be uniform; but such is not the case, for as is recorded by numerous observers, the molten matter, ejected at such depths of a volcano invariably differ in composition and character. Again, when the waters of granite it is superficial, and scoria descends to any considerable depth, air being one of the chief ingredients; but when upwards its composition the metal is deep seated, water being one of its chief ingredients; but in the recent lava we find neither the one nor the other, and the more ancient lavas generally gradually decompose as they become exposed to atmospheric influence. But, say geologists, the course of effects manifest as granite have ceased; but still volcanic action is manifest in various parts of the world. Again, they say that granite is the central event, thrown up by expansion of some portion of the inner circle; but, if so, why this infinite variety in its composition and character? Every child of science is now aware that like causes produce like effects, and, therefore, it is that if like causes were formerly manifest, like effects must, of necessity, have been produced.

Hot Springs in Africa.—A memoir was read at a late meeting of the Paris Academy of Sciences, by M. Cocher, "On the Sulphureous Hot Springs of Hammam Kassouf, near Biskra, in Africa," which states that they burst forth on a small plateau, covered by a white crust of the mineral matter deposited by their waters, and they form round each other small cones, from the summits of which the water flows. Their average heat is from 70 to 80 degrees of Réaumur, or from 207 to 212 Fahrenheit—boiling point. It is only 200 or 250 paces from the spot where the waters of these springs join a numerous stream of cold water that their heat becomes reduced enough to allow of people bathing in them; they are highly sulphureous, and send up incense clouds of steam.

—Art Grotto.—The celebrated "art grotto," which has attracted the attention of travellers in the East, of late, is found extensively in the regions of the Hindoo-koo Mountains and Tibet, where it appears in the shape of a natural subterranean from the rock in which it is deposited.

LONDON, MARCH 19, 1842.

## NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

**TO AGENTS AND CAPTAINS OF SHIPS.**—The Editor will feel much indebted to Captains, and other Agents of ships, abroad and at home, by the transmission of specimens of ore, labelled with the local designation of the mineral, and also the mine, with the view of placing them in a collection, now being formed, having for its object the classification of the several minerals of the various districts—attaching thereto such statistical information as can be acquired. Plans, or sections of mines, with particulars as to the direction and working of holes, with indices of veins, cross veins, faults, &c., will be highly acceptable, and will be placed in case, to which reference may, at any time, be made by the contributors. It is proposed, from time to time, to give papers, treating on particular districts, in the columns of the Journal, with an illustrative plan, or section.

"H. T." is thanked for the promise of a series of geological and mineralogical specimens from the Vale of Orton.

"G. C." is reminded of his promise of a series, displaying the strata of the Swansea Valley and the anticlinal district.

We believe the report, prepared by the Government Commission, on the Employment of Children in Mines, will be presented to Parliament in the course of a few weeks; until which time we would recommend "G. C." to suspend the publication of the statements he refers to.

We are obliged to "A Constant Reader" for his suggestion; he will, however, see, on reference to the table in another column, that we have introduced much valuable information, that the British miner may see in what way his interests will be affected by the new tariff.

Our correspondents at Liverpool and Devonport have been answered by post.

Mr. Sharp's paper, on the Silurian Rocks and Old Red Sandstones of the South of Westmoreland, shall appear in our next.

The publication of Mr. Phillips's Lectures on Geology will be commenced in our next Number.

**West Dorset Railway.**—We cannot comply with the request of "A Shareholder" (Dorset)—the directors do not wish publicly given to their proceedings, consequently they refuse to admit reporters.

**Mr. Budge, on Mine Surveying.**—"A Miner," on Pressure-engines v. Water-wheels—together with communications from Mr. A. T. J. Martin, and several other correspondents, must stand over.

The great space necessarily occupied by our notice of the proposed new tariff, as affects mines and minerals, interferes much with our proposed arrangements. We can only express our regret at not being able to comply with the wishes of several correspondents, by giving insertion to their communications; but, in order to prevent further disappointment to them, and to clear off arrears of valuable miscellaneous papers, which we have from time to time received, we purpose publishing with our next Number an additional sheet.

MEETINGS OF SCIENTIFIC BODIES.  
IN THE ENSUING WEEK.

SOCIETY.	PLACE OF MEETING.	DAY.	HOURL.
Royal Asiatic	14, Grafton street	Saturday	2 p.m.
Statistical	4, St. Martin's place	Monday	2 p.m.
Antislavery	Bouverie, Fleet-street	Monday	2 p.m.
Royal Medical and Chir.	53, Berners-street	Tuesday	2 p.m.
Civil Engineers	29, Great George street	Tuesday	2 p.m.
Geological	17, Pall mall	Wednesday	2 p.m.
Society of Arts	Admiral	Wednesday	2 p.m.
Geological	Somerset House	Thursday	2 p.m.
R. Society of Literature	St. Martin's place	Thursday	2 p.m.
Numismatic Society	Somerset House	Thursday	2 p.m.
Royal Botanical	Regent's park	Saturday	2 p.m.
Westminster Medical	Exeter Hall	Saturday	2 p.m.
Mathematical	Upping-street, Spitalfields	Saturday	2 p.m.

## PUBLIC COMPANIES.

MEETINGS.		
British Gas Light Company	11, George yd, Lombard st	March 23
Oil, Wh. Charlotte Mining Assoc.	George and Vulture Tavern	29
Canada Company	Canada House	29
Canadian Iron and Spelter Co.	21, Montague-street	21
Babu Steam Navigation Co.	George and Vulture	April 4
Great North of England Railway	Northgate, Darlington	5
West London Railway	11, Abingdon lane	7
Rocky Tin Mining Company	George and Vulture Tavern	7
Margate Pier and Harbour Co.	Margate	11
Dimbunton Iron and Coal Co.	London Tavern	22

CALS.		
British and Gloucester Railway	22, March 21	Barnet, House, and Co.
Northern Coast Mining Company	29	Newcastle Joint Stock Bank
Northumbrian and Eastern Railway	29	Masterman and Co.
Northop & Lambeth Steam Br.	April 2	London and County Bank
Mines Overseas Mining Company	29	Parley, Devon, and Co.
Miners' Company	10	Glyn and Co., or office.
Irish Waste Land Co. Society	10	As former calls.
Cambrian Iron & Spelter Co.	10	As former calls.
London and Croydon Railway	29	As former calls.
India Bank	29	2, Montague-street.
Bank of Australia	29	2

## REASONS AGAINST THE PROPOSED DUTY ON THE EXPORTATION OF COAL.—Since the duties payable on the exportation of coal were reduced in the year 1841, a very large tract of coal has been brought into circulation and considerable value to the owners of it as owners of the coal, by the enterprise of individuals taking it upon trust, engaging to pay certain large annual rents.

With reference to the North of England—we allude more particularly to that part of Northumbria which lies north of Tyne-mouth and reaches to Alnwick, with a considerable breadth to the westward, and the exploring of coal mines for the purpose of exportation has been equally extensive in the county of Durham, while new basins, one at Workington, in Northumbria, and one at Hartlepool, in Durham, have been made by private funds to form an extended exportation of coal. In these operations positive engagements have been contracted, and large capital embarked, upon the risk that a duty, which has been an object in itself, and an impediment to the expansive industry of the country, would never be re-enacted.

A very large proportion of the coal exported is conveyed to British vessels, which have obtained beneficial employment.

A large capital has also been embarked in promoting the two recently British inventions of oil and gas, a large fleet of steam vessels of the very best quality and high at cost have been brought into existence, facilitating the intercourse of men in all parts of Europe, Asia, and America, and curtailing the risk and time for the transport of merchandise, particularly those descriptions which are of high value.

Two English companies alone have embarked a capital of £100,000 in establishing the invention of gas-lighting on the continent—an enterprise which, however, as it has been attended with a considerable exportation of English manufactures, as well as English coal, a large and steady sum of employment for British shipping, and a remittance to this country of the revenue derived from the gas-light, has added materially to the aggregate profit and remittance of this country, and has, in connection with the exportation of coal for the purpose of steam navigation, formed the basis and support of the new undertakings which have been entered upon in the coal-fields of the north of England.

There are no doubt these new interests, mutually dependent upon each other, will be dislodged, perchance, if not totally annihilated, by a prevalence in the present importation of a duty of 10 per cent. on English coal, and can such a duty be inflicted upon any consideration of the value of this article. The highest price charged for coal exported for gas purposes is 10/- per ton, while the highest price charged for coal suited to steam purposes is 10/- per ton, such a duty would necessarily enhance the cost more than 10 per cent. upon an average price. The present duty would not be a great disadvantage to steam navigation, and as a heavy direct tax on the foreign trade of the country, carried on by steam communication.

It is admitted, that, with the exception of Scotland and Wales, few, if any, coal are exported for manufacturing purposes, but that the bulk consists of an exportation for English gas companies, and for the use of steam and private steamers, as well as for the principal use of English coal, after the few ports are supplied, 10/- per cent., and not manufacturing, mining, when in France, Portsmouth is lightered with gas, sent out by English carriers, and after the principal use of coal in the sugar refineries, as there are three ports of France in this to particular use could not be more stringent regulation, as for part of coal on account of English industry. In Scotland, however, it should be considered that it is not above the English Government that English coal has been admitted to enter either than upon payment of a duty which was prohibitory.

It is impossible not to admit that our amount of duty imposed on the exportation of coal to this country has impeded the expansive industry of the coal-field in the pursuit of manufactures, of steam navigation, and of gas-lighting. These several importations are in the condition of associated causes to convert to their onward progress. Merit has only to enhance its value, as regards the price, so liberally but not uniformly does the manufacture of such mineral appliances in England. But when consider of road vehicles, of the present moment, compare freely with the English road, and in France and Germany the manufactures have only to be given additional duty on English road, as a mere part of a consideration of money to give a stimulus, to continue to their manufacture, which would open out large markets of coal interests, and almost perfectly covered, whose interests are independently secured. These interests are to be considered of our importers, and importers and carriers and shippers of a profitable importation.

All these great imports are brought into being by the sale of coal, leaving the revenue, represented from oil, gas, and the various steam interests, the chief object of which will be a limited and remunerative enterprise, and an increase in the interests of England. It is not that we have not cause to suspect the expansion of this country, but we have not had to escape from and consider which the interests of the British empire, and the adoption of such an importation as a curb on the expansion of English coal in foreign countries for our own, and nothing less on the basis of our mines.

\* There are English gas works at Amsterdam, Rotterdam, and Bremen.

## THE MINING JOURNAL,

## Railway and Commercial Gazette.

LONDON, MARCH 19, 1842.

The proposed tariff, or alteration in the duties on foreign produce imported into this country, submitted to Parliament by Sir ROBERT PEEL as a Government measure, has created a sensation throughout the country, unexampled, we may say, for the past half century. It is sufficient for us to confine our attention to the ores, metals, and manufactures of foreign production, on which it is proposed to reduce the import duty, and on the present occasion we shall confine our remarks to tin, copper, and spelter, reserving until a future Number the several other products.

It is manifest that the object of Government is to alter all duties which approach to, or partake of, a prohibitory nature, and to place instead such as will admit of foreign ores, metals, or manufactures, coming into this country—not fairly competing with ours, but holding out those advantages which, as a financial measure, on the part of Government, will bring "grist to the mill," forgetful that, in obtaining a revenue by an import duty on foreign ores and metals, they, at the same time, throw thousands out of employment—they destroy property, by the suspension or abandonment of mines—and they inflict an injury on this country, which owes its prosperity to its production, which can never be repaired.

That the tariff has been drawn up by parties ignorant of the subjects on which they had to legislate, cannot be more readily demonstrated than by taking the metals tin and spelter; in the former,

as we shall presently prove, the duty on metallic tin is reduced to 10/- per ton, on which the British miner would rely in fancied security,

while tin ore of 75 per cent. produce is admitted at 1/- per ton, or 1/- 6d. the ton of metallic tin.

In spelter the error is more gross, although we are told—but not officially—by way of apology, that it was a mistake; it will be seen that ore valued at 5/- or 6/- per ton, cake spelter 3/-, rolled zinc at 49/-, and manufactured articles at 80/- to 100/- per ton, are all set down at the uniform duty of 1/- per ton, thus destroying our home manufacture.

Many errors, although not so palpable, are evidenced throughout the tariff, and render it a matter of regret that Government should not have availed themselves of that information which could have been acquired, and would readily have been afforded, by practical men.

With reference to copper, we have no hesitation in saying, that the question is far from being understood, as to the comparative position of the Cornish and foreign mines, or they would never have adopted the scale of duty which we find inserted in the tariff.

In the first place, we would ask whether the distinction between ore and regulus is understood, for, to those conversant with mining, it is well known that the Chili ores, as they are designated in the Ticketing Paper, and so adopted by Government, come over here in the shape of regulus, or semi-metal, and yet they are to be subjected only to the duty imposed on ore—that of 5 per cent.

It may be said, that, as it is *ad valorem*, no matter what the produce—but here we are at issue with Government—the object, say Government, is to protect our manufactures (not mines, he it observed), and,

by allowing foreign ores to come into this country to be smelted for exportation, or consumption, we put forward a measure which

must have the effect of encouraging and upholding the smelting and manufacturing interest—while they forget that, while ores

average, say, 22 per cent., the regulus comes in at 60 to 65 per cent.

produce, and thus anticipates, by labour abroad, the advantages

which Sir R. PEEL would contemplate deriving from such ores

being smelted in this country. The result may be readily foreseen

—nine-tenths of the mines in Cornwall, and other districts, will be

abandoned, and, consequently, the like proportion of the population

of that country be thrown out of employment. Government may

depend upon it, that, however strongly they may support and up-

hold the Whig Poor Law, they will meet with so strong an opposition

in the West from the landholders and lords of mines, who, like the

miners, will adopt the Cornish motto, and unite "one and all,"

that it will be a fearful day, when thousands, and tens of thousands,

are thrown out of employ, and have no resource but that of applica-

tion to the "Union."

We may instance the returns from some of the principal mines in Cornwall as illustrative of our position, as to the consequences

which must attend any reduction in the price of copper, or, rather

to use a term more immediately associated with mining, "the standard."

The Consolidated Mines, we believe, made a dividend

for the past two months of £1000, although the actual profits did

not amount to more than £200, with ores selling at a standard of

125. Now, assuming ores of 8 produce at a standard of 125, it

would give 7/- 6d. per ton; but, if a drop of 15 takes place, we

should find that ores of the same produce, at the standard of 110, would only return 6/- 1d. per ton, or a difference of 24/- per ton.

To those unacquainted with mines it would appear somewhat

strange, that a mere drop, or falling off in the standard of 15 in

125, should cause a depression in the price of ore of one seventh;

but such is the case; the consequences of which would be, that on

the produce of the Consolidated Mines—say 1000 tons per month

—the difference would be £1000, which would leave a loss of 600/- per

month instead of the profit cited. So many facts and arguments

press upon us in the consideration of the question, that we hardly

know which first to take, but, as the subject must be one of continued

attention, we proceed to those points which at the moment

more readily present themselves to our notice.

We may instance the returns from some of the principal mines in

Cornwall as illustrative of our position, as to the consequences

which must attend any reduction in the price of copper, or, rather

to use a term more immediately associated with mining, "the standard."

The Consolidated Mines are thus placed by a decline in

the standard, what are we to say to the Tresavean, Carn Brea,

Fowey Consols, Levant, and other copper mines? or to Wheal

Ves, Charlestown, Great Work, and other tin mines? It is to be ex-

pected that they can stand, if foreign ores are imported at 10/- per ton

—the difference being £1000, which would leave a loss of 600/- per

month instead of the profit cited. So many facts and arguments

press upon us in the consideration of the question, that we hardly

his country from foreign ores, and the price obtained at home for copper produced from English ores, to which the consumption of this country is confined. For instance, the present price at Rouen of foreign copper smelted in this country is £88 0 0 per ton. That of English copper in Great Britain .....

96 0 0 ..

Showing a difference of £8 0 0 in favour of the foreign manufacturer. The consequence of the import duty proposed on foreign copper ores would, therefore, prejudice the foreign miner, inasmuch that, now smelting in bond, and selling at £81, he could not (so as to secure the same advantages as the present price affords him) sell at less than £92, if that the import duty on the ores, as assumed, amounted to 4d. per ton on the metal (or, say, 15s. per ton on ores) of the produce of 20 per cent., so that the English manufacturer can compete with the foreign copper ore in distant markets.

## COPPER, PIGS OR UNWROUGHT.

The present duty is £27 0 0 per ton.

The proposed duty .....

10 0 0 ..

Reduction .....

17 0 0 ..

On the reduction here made, or the probable effect which may result therefrom, we defer making any comment.

## MANUFACTURES OF COPPER.

A reduction is here proposed to take place of 50 per cent., or to reduce the present duty of 30 per cent. *ad valorem* to 15 per cent.

Having entertained the view taken by those interested in the import of foreign ores, and adduced the arguments in favour of the measure, it becomes necessary to consider what effect the alteration in duty will have on the produce of our own mines, as well as on our home markets; and, adhering to the figures already quoted, we will again take the price of copper at Rouen at £81, while that in England is 96s.—making a difference of 8s. per ton. As has been already shown, the foreign copper (for such we will designate that produced from foreign ores) must rise in that market 4d. per ton to cover the proposed import duty—making it 92s.—so as to afford a price equivalent to that now obtained by the foreign miner. Now, there is no particular reason why a further advance should take place in foreign markets—while any competition on the part of the proprietors of English mines and the smelters of British copper would only tend to a reduction—it being evident that, at the present moment (supposing the new tariff to come into action), British copper could only be exported at reduced rates, without a rise should take place of 8s. per ton in the foreign markets, exclusive of the freight, so as to equalise the price with that now obtained in this country. If, for instance, we assume an advance of 6d. per ton on the present price at Rouen, this would give the smelter of foreign ores 2d. per ton profit, or advantage, after paying the import duty—while, for English copper, to meet it in the foreign market, a sacrifice, or loss, of 2d. per ton would be incurred, in addition to the freight. It is, therefore, quite manifest that, although other markets may be thrown open to us, it is only with the prospect of lower prices, whereas, on the other hand, the new tariff opens to foreign ores a market in England, at prices full 5s. per ton above that which is now realised by the exportation abroad, or, in other words, 11s. per ton on the ore yielding 20 per cent.—in such estimate allowance being made for the payment of the import duty of 4d. per ton, and taking into consideration the freight and charges on export to Rouen. If our figures be correct—and we believe them to be sufficiently so on which to base an argument—it will be seen that English ores, of average produce of 8s. are prejudiced to the extent of 8s. per ton, in having to compete with foreign ores, while the advantages possessed by the latter, from their richness, more than compensate for the heavy land carriage and freight to which they are subjected.

The returns from Cuba and Chili, for the past six months, compared with the produce of our home mines, will, on comparison with former calculations of this nature which have appeared in our columns, afford demonstrative evidence of the rapid increase of our imports of foreign ores, the return of our home mines remaining steady. On referring to the sales by ticketing, at Swansea, of foreign ores, for the six months ending 31st of December, 1841, it will be seen that the quantity of ore imported was 20,630 tons, yielding 358,333.4s. 6d.—the returns from Cornwall for the like period giving 51,028 tons, or 520,201.6s.

## SPELTER.

The present duty is 2d. per ton on cakes, and 10d. per ton "not in cakes," which latter embraces sheet zinc and manufactured articles. The present duty on *lapis calaminaris*, or carbonate of zinc (the foreign ore), is 20s. per ton; on zinc in cakes (the crude product), 40s. per ton; on spelter in sheets, and all manufactured articles, which come under the designation of, "not in cakes," 10d. per ton. By the reformed tariff, as proposed, these various duties are levelled to one uniform duty of 20s. per ton—that is, on the ore imported—the zinc in cakes, or crude state—the spelter in sheets—and the manufactured articles. It must be quite clear that this is against the principle of the proposed tariff on all other foreign metals, the taxation being for the supply of a cheap raw material, and the protection of native labour. The impolicy of heavily taxing the foreign article in the raw material is evident, and, as considerable capital has been embarked in mills and machinery in this country, for reducing spelter into zinc, and subsequently rolling it into sheets, it would be dealing unfairly by labour and capital invested, to permit the import of the sheet, or manufactured commodity, on the same terms as the ore, or raw material. In France, where the duty on the crude zinc is only at the rate of 10d. per ton, the manufacturers would be able, were this tariff, as proposed, to import into this country spelter in sheets, and thus destroy our home manufacture. We will suppose, for a moment, that the Lords Commissioners of the Board of Trade had placed before them—

1. Calamine (*lapis calaminaris*) or zinc ore... market value 5s.  
2. Crude spelter (in cakes)... 37s.  
3. Sheet (or rolled) spelter... 49s.  
4. Manufactured (watering pots, chimney-pots, pipes, &c.)... 98s. to 100s.

These articles, whether as raw ore—crude spelter—metallic sheets—or zinc manufactures, are, by the proposed tariff, admitted at the same duty of 12s. per ton—an error which can only be attributed to want of information in the compilation of the tables submitted by Government. In considering this question, we may observe, that while France admits the same raw material at a duty of 10d. per ton, they charge 20d. per ton on all zinc manufactures imported—thus proving that, while they are ready to introduce foreign materials, they take care to secure to themselves the advantages attendant on the manufacture.

As space, however, will not admit of a notice of the several articles in one Number, and having treated pretty fully on three of the principal metals, or ores, proposed to be introduced, we defer further observations until next week, in the meantime courting the co-operation of the mining interest.

Since the promulgation of the tariff, we have been actively engaged in directing the attention of those interested in mines to the main features which it presents, and it will be satisfactory to the miner and mine adventurer, to learn, that a committee has been formed in London, for watching over, and protecting, the British mining interest, who are now actively engaged in collecting statistical information and facts, with the view of submitting them at a general meeting, contemplated to be held immediately after the Easter recess; in the meantime, our friends in Cornwall are not idle, as we find, from a letter received by this morning's post, that a general meeting of the mining interest is proposed for the 28th instant, to be held at Andrew's Hotel, Redruth.

## THE NEW TARIFF—ORES, MINERALS, AND METALS.

A TABLE, showing the Present Duty imposed on all Foreign and British Ores, Minerals, and Metals, imported into Great Britain, with the amount of Duties received in 1840, together with the several proposed Reductions, and the Duty to be fixed in lieu thereof, with Calculations on the Reductions so made:—

AMT. OF DUTY REC. IN 1840.	PRESENT DUTY ON ORES AND METALS.				PROPOSED REDUCTION.				PROPOSED DUTY.			
	FOREIGN AND BRITISH.		FOREIGN.		BRITISH.		FORE.		BRIT.		FOREIGN & BRITISH.	
	AMT. OF DUTY REC. IN 1840.	DESCRIPTION OF ARTICLE.	PER	PRESENT DUTY.	DEC. PER CWT.	DEC. PER TON.	DEC. PER CWT.	DEC. PER TON.	DEC. PER CWT.	DEC. PER TON.	PER	DESCRIPTION OF ARTICLE.
£22 0 0	Antimony ore.	ton.	£22 0 0	£22 0 0	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	£22 0 0	Antimony ore.
£11 0 0	— Crude.	cwt.	£11 0 0	£11 0 0	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	£11 0 0	— Crude.
£11 0 0	— Regulus.	cwt.	£11 0 0	£11 0 0	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	£11 0 0	— Regulus.
£11 0 0	Asaric.	cwt.	£11 0 0	£11 0 0	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	£11 0 0	Asaric.
£11 0 0	Brass, Manufactures of.	—	£11 0 0	£11 0 0	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	£11 0 0	Brass manufactures.
£11 0 0	— Powder of.	lb.	£11 0 0	£11 0 0	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	£11 0 0	— Powder of.
£11 0 0	— Reduced.	lb.	£11 0 0	£11 0 0	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	£11 0 0	— Reduced.
£11 0 0	— In flour.	lb.	£11 0 0	£11 0 0	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	£11 0 0	— In flour.
£11 0 0	Bronze Manufactures—works of art.	do.	£11 0 0	£11 0 0	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	£11 0 0	Bronze works of art.
£11 0 0	— Powder of.	do.	£11 0 0	£11 0 0	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	£11 0 0	— Powder of.
£11 0 0	— other manufactures.	do.	£11 0 0	£11 0 0	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	£11 0 0	— other manufactures.
£11 0 0	Bullion and foreign coin, and ores of gold or silver, or of which the major part in value is gold or silver.	—	£11 0 0	£11 0 0	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	£11 0 0	Bullion, &c.
£11 0 0	Buttons.	—	£11 0 0	£11 0 0	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	£11 0 0	Buttons.
£11 0 0	Coal, calsm, and cinders.	ton.	£11 0 0	£11 0 0	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	£11 0 0	Coal, calsm, &c.
£11 0 0	— otherwise imported.	cwt.	£11 0 0	£11 0 0	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	£11 0 0	— otherwise imported.
£11 0 0	— containing not more than 30 parts for every 1 per cent., 7d. per cent.	do.	£11 0 0	£11 0 0	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	£11 0 0	— old, &c.
£11 0 0	— old, fit only to be remanufactured.	do.	£11 0 0	£11 0 0	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	£11 0 0	— plates and coin.
£11 0 0	— in plates and coin.	do.	£11 0 0	£11 0 0	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	£11 0 0	— unwrought.
£11 0 0	— unwrought—viz., in bricks or pigs, rose copper, & cast copper.	do.	£11 0 0	£11 0 0	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	£11 0 0	— part wrought.
£11 0 0	— part wrought—viz., bars, rods, ingots, hammered or raised.	do.	£11 0 0	£11 0 0	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	£11 0 0	— manuf. not enum.
£11 0 0	Manufactures not enumerated.	do.	£11 0 0	£11 0 0	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	£11 0 0	— produce E. I. C. C.
£11 0 0	Ore*.	cwt.	£11 0 0	£11 0 0	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	£11 0 0	— old, &c.
£11 0 0	— old, fit only to be remanufactured.	do.	£11 0 0	£11 0 0	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	£11 0 0	— plates and coin.
£11 0 0	— in plates and coin.	do.	£11 0 0	£11 0 0	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	£11 0 0	— unwrought.
£11 0 0	— unwrought—viz., bars, rods, ingots, hammered or raised.	do.	£11 0 0	£11 0 0	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	£11 0 0	— part wrought.
£11 0 0	Manufactures not enumerated, and copper plates engraved.	—	£11 0 0	£11 0 0	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	£11 0 0	— manuf. not enum.
£11 0 0	Copperas, Blue.	cwt.	£11 0 0	£11 0 0	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	£11 0 0	Copperas, Blue.
£11 0 0	— Green.	cwt.	£11 0 0	£11 0 0	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	£11 0 0	— Green.
£11 0 0	— White.	cwt.	£11 0 0	£11 0 0	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	£11 0 0	— White.
£11 0 0	Gold leaves, per lb.	do.	£11 0 0	£11 0 0	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	£11 0 0	Gold leaves, per lb.
£11 0 0	Iron ore.	ton.	£11 0 0	£11 0 0	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	£11 0 0	Iron ore.
£11 0 0	— Chromate of iron.	do.	£11 0 0	£11 0 0	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	£11 0 0	— Chromate of iron.
£11 0 0	Pig.	do.	£11 0 0	£11 0 0	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	£11 0 0	Pig.
£11 0 0	— from British possessions.	do.	£11 0 0	£11 0 0	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	£11 0 0	— British possessions.
£11 0 0	— Bars unwrought.	do.	£11 0 0	£11 0 0	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	£11 0 0	— Bars unwrought.
£11 0 0	— Bars from British possessions.	do.	£11 0 0	£11 0 0	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	£11 0 0	— Bars from British possessions.
£11 0 0	— Steel wrought, not otherwise specified.	do.	£11 0 0	£11 0 0	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	£11 0 0	— Steel wrought.
£11 0 0	Wire of steel.	lb.	£11 0 0	£11 0 0	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	£11 0 0	Wire of steel.
£11 0 0	— Ditto of iron.	do.	£11 0 0	£11 0 0	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	£11 0 0	— Ditto of iron.
£11 0 0	Blooms.	do.	£									

## ORIGINAL CORRESPONDENCE.

## NEW TARIFF—FOREIGN COPPER ORES.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE MINING JOURNAL.

Sir.—The proposition of Government is to admit foreign copper ores, whose produce may be sold in England for home consumption, on the payment of 5 per cent. only, and to reduce the duty on foreign bar copper from 27/- to 10/- per ton. Now, the principle which Sir Robert has adopted is not, perhaps, objectionable, but the rate of duty is most decidedly so; and I trust, therefore, that those most deeply interested in the question will represent the matter in the proper quarter in its true light, and convince the Government that the plan proposed, if adopted, will ultimately be the cause of the stoppage of many of our mines, at present producing largely, but not profitably, and employing a very great number of the lower classes; and then, let me ask, in case of a war, whence shall our manufacturers, and the Navy Board, derive their supply? If a fixed duty deserve the condemnation it has so justly received on the one question, equally deserving is it of the same fate on the question of foreign ores; and I shall be surprised, indeed, if the Minister do not so view it on reconsidering the matter. The 5 per cent. on ores from Cuba is a mere nothing, compared with the additional prices the ores will obtain hereafter (under the new tariff); and, with respect to the ores from Chile, the effect of the new duty will be to drive the miners there to the erection of furnaces, and smelting the poor ores into regalum, and an increase of furnaces there will lead to coal mining, which the late accounts report to be a favourite speculation already. Many other objections may be stated, which you, of course, will supply in your remarks on the Minister's new tariff, and, therefore, for the present, I would suggest a duty of 5 per cent. on ores under 20 per cent., 7½ per cent. from 20 to 25, 10 per cent. from 25 to 30, and all above 15 per cent., with an additional 10 per cent. on the amount of duty whenever each copper cell under 95/- per ton, and 10 per cent. off when each copper yields more than 110/-—the price of copper might be governed by the Government purchases.

Hoping you will lend your powerful aid to serve so important an interest from impending ruin, I am, Sir, your's, &c.,

Strand, March 17.

## AN ADVENTURER.

[Our correspondent will observe, on reference to the preceding columns, that we have not neglected to make our observations on the all-important subject on which he writes.]

## PRESENT STATE OF THE IRON TRADE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE MINING JOURNAL.

Sir.—In a tabular statement of the number of forges in this kingdom, published in your Journal of the 5th inst., I perceive, under the head "South Wales," that the "Clydach Works" are represented as belonging to the "Blaenavon Company." This is not so; the Clydach Works belong to the "Clydach Iron Company," and are wholly unconnected with any other.

A SUBSCRIBER.

Clydach Iron Works, Abergavenny, March 12.

## ON THE NATURE AND QUALITIES OF SULPHUR.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE MINING JOURNAL.

Sir.—I beg to thank you for placing in such a prominent position my humble endeavours to draw attention to what I consider a subject of great interest and importance, as you have done by devoting a leading article to remarks upon it in the Journal of March 12. In reply to your remarks on my letter of the 8th, as impeaching the accuracy of your statements with reference to the cost of Sicilian sulphur, I beg to state that I relied more upon facts than figures, not being in possession of data to calculate the cost in Sicily I took the price which I had paid for the article in England. In my letter of the 8th of March I state that I had bought Sicilian sulphur duty paid in England at 4/- 10s. per ton (if my memory serves me correctly, in the spring of the year 1827). I admit the possibility of that parcel having been sold at a loss, and state further, that I never afterwards bought it so low. I therefore concluded I might safely take the price of 4/- 10s. as a minimum price, and that, of freight, duty, and charges should not be fairly taken as less than 2/- 5s., no more than that sum would be left for the shipping price in Sicily. I may here remark, that I have frequently bought parcels of sulphur, duty paid, at 5/- to 5/- 5s., which induced me to hazard the opinion that you had estimated the cost in Sicily as too high when you named it. A variety of circumstances might account for the article being sold at a price below the actual cost, such as having been taken in barter for another article upon which a large profit had been made, and the desire to realize at a time when the market for sulphur was depressed by a great accumulation of stock. I shall be glad to find that the actual cost in Sicily is higher than I had laid my account for; and I should rejoice, too, in seeing the present import duty of 10s. raised to 1/-, not that my proposed speculation requires any such addition to make it pay, but as an impulse to induce capitalists to embark in a novel undertaking. In all such cases I consider it prudent to take a minimum price as the basis of calculation. Should an opportunity present itself, I shall be prepared to prove the efficacy and simplicity of the process, and the purity of the article, but you must excuse me for acting with due caution until I secure to myself some portion of the benefits.

Evesham, March 18.

T. H. LARIBOUR.

## PRESSURE-ENGINE &amp; WATER-WHEELS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE MINING JOURNAL.

Sir.—In reading my pressure-engine calculations in your Journal of the 12th inst., I fear that gentlemen who are not practically acquainted with the mode of calculating the power may be led into confusion, considering it abounds through a small error. In my way of pressure calculation, compared with Mr. Budge's wheel calculation, I find that a thirty-foot wheel is far superior to a thirty-foot pressure—for instance, say thirty-foot pressure.

Deduct for pressure friction thirty feet, or thereabouts.

Thirds (using the wheel), would be . . . . . 123—600. left—consequently a thirty-foot pressure could only be working up and down strokes performing no duty; add a load to it and it would immediately stop; but 120 feet of water in one revolution over a thirty-foot wheel, three-foot stroke (same proportion as a five-foot crank would be for a fifty-foot wheel), would raise sixteen feet of water fifty feet high, or one foot of water, containing about six gallons, 133 fathoms high; please, therefore, correct the following errors—viz., a fifty-foot pressure . . . . . 125 feet per stroke, should be . . . . . deduct thirty feet, or three-fifths . . . . . 75—30, instead of . . . . . deduct 30½ feet. . . . . Also, a 120-foot pressure . . . . . 123 feet per stroke, should be . . . . . deduct thirty feet, or three-tenths . . . . . 77—37½, instead of . . . . . deduct 30½ feet.

Scientific practical men will not require this explanation, but I beg to correct this prevailing error in order to make it more intelligible.

Carmarthen, March 14.

P. V. W.

## IMPROVEMENTS IN THE ASCENT AND DESCENT OF DEEP MINES.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE MINING JOURNAL.

Sir.—In your valuable Journal of the 5th inst., I perceive a letter from a Newmarket friend, signed "M. D.," on the subject of machinery for the ascent and descent of mines. "M. D." has drawn a plan of the house which he states are working in his district for conveying to the surface the produce of the mines and the people, and which we suppose is worked by rope or chain. It is said that nothing can exceed this apparatus in safety and precision, even at the rate of 100 fathoms per minute. This sort of machine may do for a coal mine, where, perhaps, there may not be more than two or three coal mines, not more than fifty men at work—which is quite different to the deep shafts in our Cornish mines. In many places, and in the Pewsey Consols there are ten to twenty leading places, or levels, in a shaft 500 fathoms deep, consequently this sort of machine, from a mechanical calculation, in our shafts would take four minutes to discharge one ton. Supposing there be two working in one shaft, and notwithstanding "M. D." has not stated the number these hours may, I will suppose they may be made to continue six hours, therefore, after this time, six men only would be required every four hours.

Now, I should suppose that "M. D." is not aware of the number of men that go down our large mines every morning—*viz.* instance, in Pewsey Consols there are about 600 at the first crop, and nearly 800 that follow the consols at six o'clock, consequently, by "M. D." sort of apparatus, it would take about two hours and thirteen minutes to discharge all the men, and which would be a rate quite fast enough, considering the different leading-places or galleries. Now, "M. D." states that the men about being worked at Tresavean Mine is too slow and dangerous, and will not work. I do not speak so positive, because I am apprehensive as to fancy that any plan that I might be a

party to in proposing would, or could not, be excelled. I cannot say but that I differ in opinion from "M. D." altogether as to the sort of machine best to be applied in the deep Cornish mines, notwithstanding I agree partly with him as to Tresavean, that it is dangerous and complicated; but, while he thinks it too slow, I consider it too fast, and contend that one rod working in the shaft, as per plan and model by Mr. West and myself, now in the Polytechnic Hall, Falmouth, is far less complicated, less dangerous, and less expensive than two rods, and that one rod working six twelve-foot strokes per minute, for 200 fathoms in length, would bring up or send down men in seventeen minutes, which is fast enough for the miner to ascend or descend. It may be seen by our plan that 100 men may be coming up on one side of the rod while another 100 men are going down the other, yet but 100 on the rod at a time, each stopping alternately, while the rod goes the up and down stroke, on fixed rollers in the shaft, which would prepare them for the next lift, and prevent a sickness, which two rods in constant motion would very likely produce.

J. FUCKET.

Pewsey Consols Mine, Cornwall, March 14.

## ASCENT AND DESCENT IN DEEP MINES.

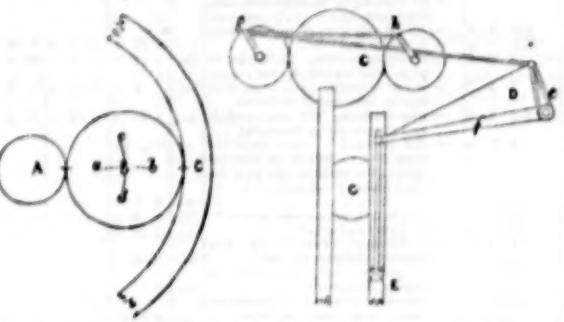
TO THE EDITOR OF THE MINING JOURNAL.

Sir.—In my description of the plan of admitting water, &c., on the machine giving motion to the rods, the recurrence of the word *disk* instead of *disk* must have confused the readers of it: with this correction I presume on your courtesy in allowing me to proceed with the manner in which I produce the needed pause for the climber to pass from stage to stage on rods which I propose to reciprocate up and down the shaft.

Let A (see fig. 1) be the small cog-wheel or pinion attached to the axis

Fig. 1.

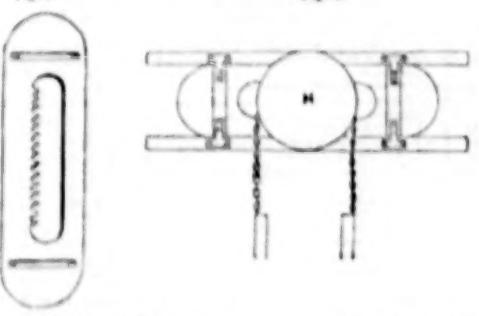
Fig. 2.



of the driving engine, and let B be a wheel, with an eccentric axis at e, one-third of its diameter; let C be the ring of a wheel, concentric with A, to keep B and A in gear; let motion take place with A, then will the axis a play in a groove from a to b, while the centre B oscillates between c and d; then let the axis a be the nearest possible to pinion A—that is, at a distance of one-third the diameter of B—then, if the circumference of A moves one foot per second, the interior point of B in contact with it must also move one foot per second, while its opposite or exterior point at a distance from a, two-thirds of B's diameter, must move twice as fast as the circumference of A. Now, suppose the axis a to arrive over at b, and the exterior point in the circumference of B to arrive around to touch A, then the long and short radii of B will have exchanged places—that is, the two-thirds become interior, and the one-third exterior—then circumference of A going as before, one foot per second, causes the now exterior point of B to move but six inches per second, so that during the round of B there are two points in its circumference, which, as they successively assume the exterior position, the one carries the ring C twice as fast as A, and the other only half as fast, the difference being 4 to 1, as before spoken of; and the wheel C is employed to move crank-wheels and bobs, or as may be—the bob D (see fig. 2) being only attached to one rod, as at E, the rod F being attached over a balance-wheel as at G, of which more to be said hereafter. The length of the stroke in the shaft is governed by the proportions in lengths of e and f. The above arrangement is plain and practical, but, instead of the bob D, I have in my model a rectangular rack, into which the crank pins g and h work, and carry it forward and backward. This rack (see fig. 3) works a pinion concealed by H below:

Fig. 3.

Fig. 4.



then the length of stroke in the shaft increases with the size of H only, all the other wheels being the same for any stroke. The front of the machine, with the pinion and balance-wheel added, appears as in fig. 4. This arrangement, involving so many wheels, has been deprecated for its complexity, but I know not how to dispense with any one of them, unless the available admission of steam or water admitted in my last is sufficient to impel the common crank with a variable velocity—imposing the law of either in absent cass at the dead point. The length of this train of work may be twelve feet, the height six feet, and the thickness quite within a two-foot well, except the oscillating wheel H, the axis of which is necessarily prolonged over the shaft.

J. PHILLIPS.

Fordington, Feb. 28.

## THE BRIDE LIGHT—ITS INVENTOR.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE MINING JOURNAL.

Sir.—Some time since I addressed you on the subject of the Bride Light, under the impression that that communication would be sufficient—as acquainting you with the perpetration of a gross fraud by Dr. Landor and Mr. Gurney, in appropriating to themselves the intention of Mr. Lockwood, a correspondent of your Journal—to ensure your powerful assistance in exposing the unworthy conduct of those parties, and to do an act of justice towards the ingenuous gentleman so wronged, in setting the public right as to whom they are indebted for that excellent invention. My intention was to have forwarded a further communication, with extracts of Mr. Lockwood's paper, read before the British Association by Dr. Landor, but, finding, from a note attached to a letter from another correspondent, that you intended to publish the letter entire, I was in hopes that an early Number would contain it, with sufficient Editorial remarks to awaken the public mind to a sense of shame at his conduct, and to satisfy the public of the base and malevolent conduct of those parties, contained in a paper of so high a character, and devoted to such hideous purposes as the *Miner*.

Some weeks having passed without the least notice of the subject, am I to conclude that your columns are well occupied to admit of noticing the subject, or that you do not feel sufficient interest, or desire, to render that assistance, which in reason might be expected, in exposing a scientific fraud? and which, I may observe, appears to me to be the duty of the conductor of a paper of so high a character, and devoted to such hideous purposes as the *Miner*. J. J.

Elong's Inn, March 14.

We have to thank our correspondent for keeping attention alive by his communication, but we may assure him that the subject has not been lost sight of by us—indeed, we have only awaited the receipt of information, which will, we hope, immediately prove that not only is he right, but that much wrong has been done Mr. Lockwood, to whom, with our correspondent, we are induced to believe the merit of the *Bride Light* is due.

\* There are three wheels of size B, their axes being called into motion to move the rod E and also the rapid alteration of elevation, these three wheels serve as arms to the ring C. The crank pins here indicate as well the same purpose.

## DEBULTRY OBSERVATIONS ON VARIOUS SUBJECTS.

WILLIAMS'S PATENT FURNACE.

The discussion on combustion and fuel, which has so long occupied the columns of the *Mining Journal*, is degenerating into personal contention. That a discussion of so much importance should end unsatisfactorily, and not from the bad feelings of those engaged in it towards each other, and not from the unpractical nature of the subject-matter of it, is not to be permitted, if reasonable remonstrance will avail to restore order and induce amity. In discussions on points of science, truth is the only object that should be aimed at; irritating and insulting language should, therefore, be avoided, for, in the tumult of irritation and passion, truth is either lost sight of or passed unheeded—in proof of which we have Mr. Hood's dangerous perversion of a passage in Mr. Williams's Treatise, and which his subsequent apology has by no means palliated. Ridicule and harsh language can be used with propriety only to repress the presumptions of confident ignorance or the encroachments of vice. I am certain the gentlemen I allude to will, on reflection, see how much they detract from their dignity as scholars and philosophers, and how much they cause to be lost to the world by ill-tempered contention, and that, seeing such consequences, they will avoid the causes.

Mr. Williams has proved that the gases evolved from the fuel in a steam-furnace may be consumed; but he has furnished little practical evidence, and that so vague as to be almost valueless, that they are perfectly consumed, or consumed so far in his furnace, as to make the saving of fuel thereby worthy of consideration. The theory of Mr. Williams's patent is unexceptionable in my judgment; but does the practice square with the theory, and if not fully, in what degree? is a question asked by many. I presume it would, therefore, be worth Mr. Williams's while to adduce evidence of the actual amount of saving of fuel effected by one of his furnaces in common use. There can be little difficulty in obtaining such evidence, and until it is obtained and made public, the objections to his furnace will continue to have greater influence than Mr. Williams will, perhaps, believe. Mr. Hood has asserted and reasserted, in decided terms, that steam delivered into a chimney will prevent the emission of smoke; and, moreover, he has produced what appear proofs of the fact. I do not dispute Mr. Hood's proofs, but I never witnessed such result from the action of steam, and I have the means of daily and hourly observation. Is Mr. Hood personally cognisant of the proofs he offers? It is a common notion that steam will act as Mr. Hood asserts; but, if it do, it must be under some peculiarity of condition I cannot discover, and that I should be glad to be informed of.

In the upward of contention about the theory of combustion, the relative value of the different kinds of fuel has been totally lost sight of. Mr. Williams maintains, if I understand him rightly, that common coal, with his furnace, is superior to coke and stone coal, because the heating power of the carbon and gases of the coal must be superior to the heating power of carbon alone. But before this can be admitted, Mr. Williams must prove that the gases arising from the combustion of coal in a boiler-furnace can be consumed entirely and perfectly by his system; and also that the same amount of oxygen enters into combustion in a common coal fire as in a fire of coke or stone coal—the latter being in the condition to produce perfect combustion. In other words, Mr. Williams must prove that, with his furnace, he can, in a given time, produce as much heat from common coal as from coke or stone coal, under the conditions of supply of oxygen proper to each.

I throw out these observations with a view to recall the attention of Messrs. Williams, Brough, Leighton, and Thompson, to the subject.

## MR. MONTAGUE'S GEOLOGY.

The theoretical essays on geology, by Mr. Montague, display talent and learning, and have at least the merit of originality sufficient to give us pause. I do not agree with Mr. Montague's reasoning throughout, nor with all his notions, and some of his facts require authenticating—but, right or wrong, I admire the boldness of his philosophy. I infer Mr. Montague belongs to the Kantian, or Transcendental, school of philosophers; but that as it may, his physiology smacks of that school, and is much too frequently objectionable, being obscure and equivocal, when it should be clear and unequivocal. Plain English is quite adequate to any purpose of language. Our tongue will never owe any thing to the Transcendentalists—Mr. Herod and his Magazine notwithstanding. German owes nothing to Kant. My purpose is not, however, so much to remark on Mr. Montague's writing, as to thank him for his essays, and advise him to eschew notice of fanatics like Mr. Wilson. If he stops to remark on the verbiage and literary garbage of every muddle-head, he will have more to do than he, perhaps, calculates on. The cry of Athelstane has lost its potency.

Let me ponder boldly—*in a base*  
Abandonment of reason to rest  
Our right of thought—our last and only place  
Of refuge.

## WATER-WHEELS.

The Bickleigh "Miner" has broached a subject of much interest, and one little understood by ordinary mechanics; but cranks, as proposed by the "Miner," would be a drawback, instead of an improvement: they would, at points, cause great and sudden disengagements of the load on the wheel, by destroying the reciprocal action of the pumps. With right-angle cranks, when one crank would be vertical, and the other, of course, horizontal, one set of pumps would be at half-stroke out, and the other at the end of the stroke; therefore, what would occur when the latter began to rise to the vertical, and the other depressed to horizontal? Clearly an increase of load on the wheel, to the amount of the column of water then set in motion. At other points of the revolution of the cranks, it is equally obvious that both sets of pumps would be making simultaneous strokes. With cranks on the same plane, in opposite directions, the one stroke of the pumps ends instantly before the other begins, so maintaining an equal load, or nearly so, on the wheel.

Touching the speed of wheels, it must be manifest that they cannot exert the full power they are capable of, if they do not move slower than the impelling stream; how much less depends considerably on the construction of the buckets. But it must also be obvious, that the speed of the wheel must not, in all cases, bear the same proportion to the velocity of the stream—there is a speed beyond which wheels should not move. The speed of mill-work and of pumps depends on other circumstances than the speed of the wheel that gives them motion. Pumps should invariably be worked with less velocity than that at which the space between the bucket and the fixed stalk is filled from the suction-pipe. With beam-lifting engines the maximum of true velocity is, perhaps, never passed; but crank engines often go at random with pumps, and on also do water-wheels, either from improper speed or incorrectly proportioned cranks. No writer on mechanical philosophy I am acquainted with, except Young, has noted anything of the speed pumps should be worked at, but abundance on the use of suction pipes, and that, mostly, in ignorance of the practical necessity of making them of smaller bore than working-bore.

Our Bickleigh inquirer will find that the effect of pumps (in condition, of course) worked by a water-wheel depends on the speed at which they are worked, and that speed on the speed of the wheel, and on properly proportioned cranks, or gearing. I need not speak of the application of pumps. It would interest the *Miner*, I suppose, or I would put together, in a popular manner, the best points of information on water-power that the most worthy authorities furnish; but if the gentleman who has induced these remarks should be in London, he will find, at Mr. Wool's Library, great store of works on hydraulics; there are several excellent works on French Treatises I recommend to his attention.

N. V. B. Polywell, is entirely wrong in asserting that the power of water-pump engines depends on the gravity of water—it depends altogether on other principle. A pound of water may be made to exert the force of tons. His question as to the height of a column of water necessary for a "pressure-engine," to speed a 50 foot wheel, as far as water-power goes, can be answered only by informing him that it will depend on the diameter of the base of the column. A column of one foot would suffice, with a sufficient base. The velocity of the engine pump would depend on the velocity of the inlet and outlet of the water.

## WATER SURVEYING.

There is something highly mysterious and difficult in mine surveying if we must judge from the various associations and commentaries we have of late been favoured with; but they remind me of the devil shawed

\* With all due deference to our correspondent, it is just such practical knowledge that does not the *Journal*, and the insertion of which must lead to a great loss of time and trouble, as well as to the extension of the article.

\*\* With all due deference to our correspondent, it is just such practical knowledge that does not the *Journal*, and the insertion of which must lead to a great loss of time and trouble, as well as to

the pig—great cry and little wool. The "Old Pegging Captains" have been unmercifully pelted and jibed at, but, in my poor opinion, with small reason. What are they guilty of?—Geometrical construction on a large scale—nothing in the world else. With the requisite care, all things being equal, they ought to be as accurate in their results as the gentlemen who ridicule them; in fact, they are freer from the chances of error, having fewer figures to deal with. Some blunder, to be sure, and so do some of the trigonometres. I do not mean to depreciate the mathematical methods—far from it—but a volume of logarithms in the hands of a man little used to figures would be like a razor in the hands of a child; he might get through with it, as the child might escape being maimed, but the odds would be against him; and as to trigonometrical calculations, independently of the aid of logarithms, by such a man, they would be fearfully dangerous. In short, nobody but a fool would suffer a mine captain to pursue any other than the "pegging system," unless his mathematical attainments were of a superior kind, and his hand well practised. In ninety-nine cases out of a hundred the "pegging system" is the shortest and safest—object who may; and I may remark, *en passim*, that the colliers are not judges of the system I would bow to—they know nothing of the whys and wherefores of it.

Whatever mathematicians may say, it is an axiom with practical men, that the shortest way of working a problem, or drawing a figure, is the best; they invariably avoid masses of figures when they can, and construct mechanically, when, mathematically, it would be waste of time and source of error. In forming an ellipse, a cissoid, or hyperbola, why am I to be hampered with ordinates and diverging lines, when I can describe the curves slant, without any bother, by means of a couple of nails and a bit of string, or a trammel? If the figure-men might have their way, the bullet-headed geniuses would stop not only "pegging captains," but three-fourths of the mechanics in the country.

Under this head, "Bob-at-a-Pinch," alias "Bob Jackson, the coal-carter" (*vera avis, et similium nigrocyano cygno*), though I am rather bothered to understand what he can have to do with such an affair, asks a question touching the extracting of water from a pit end—that, I am sure, he will never get answered in a newspaper. The water "Bob" speaks of may easily be commanded by help of the winding-engine, if it have three or four horse-power to spare. If "Bob" is master, and not man, he had better consult some mining engineer on the spot, who is acquainted with the various species of modern motive power.

#### PUMP-BUCKET LEATHERS.

The gentleman who inquires (Journal of 26th February) respecting pump-bucket leathers, if his pumps are of pretty large diameter, will find his remedy in using a metallic bucket without leathers. The working barrel must be truly bored, and the bucket turned to fit truly, but so that it will work sufficiently free. With the due velocity little water will be lost. Has he any objection to plungers?

#### BRITISH SULPHUR.

There can now be little question that the British sulphur interest is to be sacrificed—Bowing's motion is its death-knell. The arch-apostle of free trade can mean the interest no favour. Cottons that dissolve at the sight of a washing-tub must be manufactured and sold to foreigners—foreign commerce must be extended, let what may become of the manufacture of home products and the cultivation of our own soil. Peel is no more to be trusted than a steel pricker in tamping a charge; he will throw all he can, with safety to himself, little by little, into the inevitable maw of plutocracy. Bowring's next motion will be one to affect the copper-interest; he must be watched anxiously, for he means mischief. \* \* \*

*Pengarwysfa Mine, Anglesey, March 2.* B. DONBAYND.

#### PROCEEDINGS OF PUBLIC COMPANIES.

##### BISSEK BRIDGE MINING COMPANY.

The adjourned meeting of the proprietors in the above company was held at the George and Vulture Tavern, on Thursday, the 17th instant.

ROBERT HICHENS, Esq., in the chair.

After reading two letters which had been received from the mining experts, the CHAIRMAN explained that it was for the meeting to decide whether they should dissolve the company, and, according to recommendations they had received, endeavour to sell the mine in London, or pull up the materials, and sell them by auction on the spot. Their position was most decidedly altered for the worse, and if Sir R. Peel's proposed tariff should be passed into law, the value of their property would be very materially decreased, therefore, the decision of the proprietors should be given without loss of time.

Mr. LYNE then read a long statement of the affairs of the company, wherein he brought some very grave charges (amounting to dishonesty) against Mr. Carne, and blaming very severely the management of Messrs. Coatsworth and Hichens, for having allowed themselves to be led by Mr. Carne, and, by his advice, deviating from the prospectus, and violating the contract by which the company was formed. In the original prospectus it was stated that the Bissek Bridge Mine was situated within a few yards of the Consolidated Mine, in the parish of Gwernan, while the point upon which the directors had been working was above 6000 yards from the Consolidated Mines, and in the parish of Kay; and, instead of working at a point that was proverbially rich, they had expended all the means of the shareholders on a point that was even better known as barren and unprofitable—in fact, instead of the directors working the Bissek Bridge Mine, in Gwernan, they had been working Wheal Widder and Boden. This change had never been communicated to the proprietors, and, consequently, the directors were liable for the losses the proprietors had sustained. Mr. Lyne concluded by moving, "That a committee of five proprietors should be appointed, to examine all books, papers, &c., belonging to the company, and to report at a special meeting to be called for that purpose."

The CHAIRMAN and Mr. COATSWORTH stated that the books were, and always had been, open to all the proprietors, and that every facility should be given for investigation, nor would they shrink from any responsibility that it might be proved they had incurred.—Mr. LYNE stated that the books were not open to the proprietors, for he had taken a friend of his—a mining captain—along with him to Cornwall, to examine the mine and books, but the books were at Mr. Carne's house, thirteen miles from the mine, and could not be got at, so all his expense (above £10.) was thrown away. Of course, the captain wished, after coming from underground, to see the east book, in order to see if in all that had been done due economy had been observed.

Some conversation ensued upon this subject, during which the directors explained that the books were removed from the mine, because they had no proper place to keep them in the spot, and that Mr. Carne had invited Mr. Lyne to his house, where they could have been inspected, or Mr. Lyne could have walked a day, until they could be sent for.—To this Mr. Lyne replied, that the books might never have been removed from the mine, and that it would not have been right to have partaken of the hospitality of a man whose conduct they expected in good reason to censure. As to walking a day, the idea was ridiculous, as mining captains expected to be paid, and he could not spare more time. Mr. Carne had had notice of his intention to visit the mine, with Captain Crysian, three weeks previously.—Mr. WHEALEAN believed that the books had been purposely removed.—Mr. COATSWORTH said, to show that the Kay Mine was not unproductive, since 1857 there had been raised—

Tim	£10,673 11 19
Lead	4,069 13 19
Manganese	622 10 6
Arsenic	72 7 9
Black-jack	624 15 0
Ore	609 9 0

Making a total of £17,472 8 8.

Mr. POLLARD wished to know what had been expended upon these mines?—The CHAIRMAN replied, they had lost £1,000, by them.—Mr. LYNE then stated that the mines were barren and unprofitable, they having expended £1,000, upon them, besides the £2,000 raised.

After some further discussion, Mr. POLLARD called upon Mr. BAXENDALE (the solicitor of the company) to draw up the resolution more fully. Mr. Lyne, a proper master, while Mr. BAXENDALE refused to do so, but said he never heard of such a request being made by parties dissentient to the directors, and, after a few further remarks, he threw up his arms.—Several proprietors then called for the resolution to be put to the meeting, but the CHAIRMAN refused to do, and evidently broke up the meeting so that he would have nothing to do with such a motion, to the only one of the proprietors might object amongst themselves as to have free scope in every book and paper belonging to the company.

**MINERAL RESOURCES OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA.**—At the meeting of the Royal Geographical Society, on Monday last, Colonel Gawler gave a long and interesting detail of the present state and condition of the colony of South Australia, in which he referred, at considerable length, to the quantity of wood, and the extensive mineral resources of the country, particularly of iron ore; every variety of which, one of which, the Colonel said, was equal to that of North Wales, and a large quantity had lately been sent to Sydney; and limestone, some of which is equal in quality to the best French.

#### MINING CORRESPONDENCE.

##### FOREIGN MINES.

**BRAZIL.**—Her Majesty's packet *Swift*, arrived on Saturday afternoon from the Brazils; she left Rio de Janeiro on the 19th of January, and having a freight of between 30,000d. and 60,000d. in gold dust and diamonds. Exchange 20d. at sixty days on London; Paris, 35d.; Hamburg, 64d.

##### IMPERIAL BRAZILIAN MINING ASSOCIATION.

*Rio de Janeiro, Jan. 18.*—We have now the pleasing satisfaction of informing you that we have received from the Government, for your account, \$2,800 milreis, in 6 per cent. stock, and \$8 ditto in currency, being one-third of the repayment of the deposit, as shown by the following statement, viz.:—

100,000 milreis in silver, at 76 per cent. premium.

248,763 ditto, in three payments, in stock of \$2,800 milreis each

—\$48,480 milreis; balance of stock 365 milreis; 257 milreis in currency, in three payments, each of about 854 milreis. We have to receive the other payments in February and March, but on the same calculation in stock, bearing interest from the 1st inst. We have likewise the pleasure to hand you enclosed bill of lading of 311 lbs. 8 oz. 3 dwts. 3 grs. of gold dust (valuation about 9000d.)

NAYLOR, BROTHERS, and Co.

*Gold Report.* Lbs. oz. dwts. grs.

Total raised from 1st July to 31st December ..... 521 0 9 12

Total raised for the year ending December 31, 1841 ..... 931 4 8 0

Produce for January 1, 1842 ..... 0 11 12 0

##### BRASILIAN COMPANY.

*Cafe Branco, Dec. 19.*—From the great quantity of rain which has fallen we have been somewhat hindered in our surface works, and prevented from keeping the stamps supplied—the greater evil of the two. It cannot, however, be expected, that our present force, under the most favourable circumstances, will ever be able to break 600 tons a-week, which quantity our engines, with water enough, could stamp. This has my attention.

**Dec. 30.**—Appearances in the mine continue the same. I regret, however, to say, that, from the failure of six pieces of our deep shaft still timber, we shall fall more than usually short this week of stone. In the cross-cut, at San Antonio, another vein of soft quartz, two feet wide, has been passed. I am still continuing the cross-cut south, not feeling sure that it is the lode.

**Jan. 4.**—I see no reason to be dissatisfied with the present appearance of the bottom. At San Antonio we have cut the lode, upon which we are now driving east. It is becoming wider, and more promising in look, but still samples poor. I am, however, satisfied that we shall yet meet with something there that will repay us. The gold on hand, the produce from October 30th to December 31st, and amortizing, exclusive of duty, to 154 lbs. 8 oz. 3 dwts. 10 grs., will be sent off to-morrow. [Arrived per *Swift* packet.]

W. CORNWORTH.

Gold return for three weeks to 31st December, 59 lbs. 7 dwts. 19 grs.

—Ditto for the month of December, 94 lbs. 10 oz. 16 dwts. 8 grs.

##### ST. JOHN DEL REY MINING COMPANY.

*Morro Velho, Dec. 18.*—Average number of heads working the last eighteen days, 57.

**Mine.**—On the night of the 13th inst. Morro Velho was visited by a tremendous storm; it rained most heavily for several hours, and, unfortunately, the ladders to Hawkhurst's engine, which are laid on the surface, over Champion Mine, became clogged by a stone carried down the hill, and turned the stream into the mines. The pump was forced this morning; sinking has been stopped the whole week, and, although the stamps have been supplied with stone, it has not been possible to do so without taking ore wherever we could get it. There was a large quantity of stone broken under water; yesterday the hauling-engine went to work in Holes shaft, and the supply of stone is good. The produce of Gama Mine continues low. At Champion Mine the stone does not look well on the floors. We have driven further to hill than the ancients did there; the lode has been beamed, or twisted, by a horse of kilas, about six feet thick, running nearly at right angles with the country; Captain Pritchard believes that the lode will be found to resume its original direction, which would be very gratifying, as we should then have a mountain of blocks. To the west we have cleared up four fathoms; the hole in the bottom is worked flat, and had only been abandoned when further working was rendered impossible by the water; a line of soft black formation runs through it, near the footwall, from one to two feet big; this is the stuff the ancients went after, called by them "fulha," leaving the hard stones standing. We have two very good slopes, one east and the other west of shaft, giving the best stone we have on the floors. The lode west is seven feet wide, five feet of which is excellent stone.

**Dec. 28.**—Average number of heads working twenty-eight days, 58-67.

**Mine.**—A continuance of heavy rains has prevented any sinking in the Bahia. We expect the produce will exceed that of November. In Louis Mine the lode west continues good.

**Cost for Nov.**—166-94 rs., of which 6017 for stores, &c., from England.

##### UNITED MEXICAN MINING ASSOCIATION.

*Guanajuato, Jan. 28.*—I had the honour to address you on the 21st inst. [not yet received] in anticipation of the November packet, and as that vessel has not yet been heard of, I am afforded the opportunity of handing to you herewith copy of an agreement between the association and the Rayas owners, regulating the time and mode of distribution of the mine profits, as connected with the debt due to the association by Rayas. The realised profits of the mine from the 10th October to the 31st December last have been £12,929 5 5, and of the proportion thereof amounting to £12,887 7 5, and corresponding to the 126 bars of the mine mortgaged to the association for the payment of the general mine debt, the sum of £11,411 6 1 has already been received—leaving £1461 4 still to be received in virtue of this agreement. As stated in my last letters, the profits of the mine have been gradually decreasing, and the amount thereof, corresponding to the present month, will not, I believe, exceed £4500, but whether more or less, the amount will be appropriated in pursuance to the enclosed agreement. This decrease of profits, on the other hand, raises my hopes in behalf of a new contract of Avio, and which I repeat, will be, I believe, sooner or later obtained.

J. N. SHOOLBRED, Manager.

##### ANGLO-MEXICAN MINING COMPANY.

The only letter which the company has received by this packet is dated January 28, and contains no intelligence regarding the mines; a letter was dispatched to go by the packet dated the 24th of January, but which has not yet come to hand. The amount of good assets on hand at Guanajuato, on the 31st of December, is stated to be £133,315, being an increase over the preceding year of £24,000.

##### ENGLISH MINES.

###### HOLMBURG MINING COMPANY.

**March 14.**—I beg leave to inform you that the lode in the 110 fathoms level, west of Forest's wing, is still about six inches wide, with stones of ore; in this level, east of Dingie's shaft, the lode is seven inches wide, of manganese and spar, with a small proportion of ore. The lode in the 100 fathoms level west is still about twelve inches wide, and worth 15d. per fathom; in this level, east of Wall's shaft, we are still cross-cutting south; the lode in the eastern slopes, in the back of this level, is eighteen inches wide, and worth 15d. per fathom; the western slopes, in the back of this level, are still very productive, the lode being two feet wide, and worth 15d. per fathom. The lode in the thirty fathoms level west is fourteen inches wide, and worth 15d. per fathom; the lode in the western slopes, in the back of this level, is eighteen inches wide, and worth 15d. per fathom. The lode in the 80 fathoms level, west of Wall's shaft, is still without alteration; in driving west of Hitchens's shaft, at this level, on the north lode, is fifteen inches wide, producing good stones of ore, and, upon the whole, may be said to be assuming an encouraging appearance. In the tributary department no material alteration.

F. PHILLIPS.

##### CHURCHILL MINING COMPANY.

**March 14.**—We find the Churchill lode, going west of engine-shaft, at the sixty fathoms level, is medium large, and in appearance blistly, although at some time to come we may calculate on driving westward before we get into very ground, of which you are made fully acquainted with, the mass of ore goes down in the bottom of the fifty fathoms level being some distance still below us. The south lode, at this level, we had to be so inclined to hard ground, and split into branches, that we have suspended driving, and removed the same rock to cross-cut north from shaft to cut the north lode, and have about two fathoms more to drive. At the fifty fathoms level we expect to have the lode in the forty in the course of this week; our progress here has not been so fast as we anticipated, on account of a great delusion of air, and the ground proving harder than was expected. We have been quite able to remove the working of Murray's shaft, under the 60 fathoms level, and, as well, have a clean working between the old western and Murray's shafts, on the course of Churchill lode, which is buried down to the forty fathoms level, but above as taken away as high as the adit to the former workings by tributaries; the mass of the lode in the west is two feet, and producing stones of lead; we think it necessary to explore this piece of high ground. The north lode is not yet cut at the thirty-two fathoms level, we have about two fathoms more to drive; the ground is rather hard. At the twenty-four fathoms level, on the north lode, going east, it is a large lode, two and a half feet wide, of a promising character, and of three yielding a little ore, but not regular; the ground is ferruginous, and looks promising. At the

sixteen fathoms the lode has much of the same appearance and size as at the twenty-four fathoms level. The eight fathoms level going east also is rich as usual. On our last setting day, held on the 4th inst., we set the pump shaft to sink below the sixty fathoms level, also a new shaft from surface, called Stansby's, fifty-five fathoms east of Clifford's shaft. The number of tribute pitches then set was twenty, varying as under—one at 12. 4d., one at 13s., one at 30s., one at 31s., one at 40s., one at 45s., and the remaining fourteen at 60s. in 7d. per ton. Next Thursday we shall sample about the same quantity as the last (say fifty-five or fifty-six tons). The new boiler is also connected with the old one, and will be worked with advantage very shortly. R. BROWN.

##### REDMOOR CONSOLIDATED MINING COMPANY.

**March 14.**—In the south end, at the sixty fathoms level, the lode is about six inches wide, very good work for silver-lead ore; going north, at this level, the lode is twelve inches wide, saving work. At the fifty fathoms level, in the north end, the lode is split into two branches, of spar, fucran, and lead ore; in the south end, at this level, we have intersected an east and west copper lode, about two feet wide, yielding good stones of ore, and an abundance of muriate. I have this day set six feet to open on its course eastward, which will enable us to judge more clearly of its nature and underlay. The lead lode in this end is eight inches wide, saving work. The copper lode, going east, at this level, is eighteen inches wide, composed of spar, fucran, and muriate, and jack. The lode in the south end, at the forty fathoms level is eight inches wide, ready throughout.

F. R. ROWE.

##### TAMAR SILVER-LEAD MINING COMPANY.

**March 14.**—In the 135 fathoms level the lode is six inches wide, still producing a small quantity of ore. In the 110 fathoms level the lode is one foot in width, carrying branches of silver-lead ore. In the 105 fathoms level the lode is one foot in width, producing some good work. In the thirty-five fathoms level the lode is two feet wide, composed of soft spar, intermixed with silver-lead ore. In the seventy-five fathoms level the lode is one foot wide, producing some promising work. In the sixty-five fathoms level the lode is eighteen inches wide, carrying some rich branches of ore. In the fifty-five fathoms level we have just commenced driving; the lode is in a disordered state, in consequence of being in alddy ground. In the forty-five fathoms level the lode is two feet wide, composed of spar, and one foot wide, in the thirty-five fathoms level the lode is two feet wide, carrying branches of silver-lead ore. The tributaries are working well, and their prospects in general are encouraging.

J. SPAGRUE.

